

Union orders end to strike by private steelmen

Leaders of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation voted last night to obey the Court of Appeal's instruction not to extend the state strike to the private sector. Union officials earlier made

official complaints alleging use of excessive force by police when arresting 42 pickets. One said the police had started handcuffing the men before putting them in the wagon.

Bitter attack on Lord Denning

By Paul Routledge
Labour Editor

An instruction will go out today from the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation countermanding union orders involving 20,000 private sector workers in the stoppage that has halted the British Steel Corporation since January 2.

Last night the union was bitterly critical of the ruling by Lord Denning in the Rolls, that the strike should not be extended and admitted that some of its members might not toe the executive's line.

Mr William Sims, general secretary of the confederation, said: "Whatever was in Lord Denning's judgment is being applied as per Lord Denning. As a magistrate I want to follow the letter of the law. I want the members to do that."

"I would not be impressed if they did not. But they have been law-abiding citizens. They have agreed to accept, even the law of Lord Denning."

Leaders of the confederation will meet Mr Len Murray, general secretary of the TUC, today to discuss the negotiations that have opened up the prospect of a general return to pay and productivity with craftsmen and general workers employed by British Steel.

But there seems little likelihood of a similar resumption of negotiations involving the 100,000 steel process workers and blast-furnace workers who began the strike. The confederation does not think that British Steel's offer is sufficiently worthwhile to bring its negotiators to London.

The executive has been called into emergency session

on Friday to consider the outcome of the union's application for leave to appeal to the Law Lords against the Court of Appeal's decision.

If the Lords agree to hear the appeal, and rule in favour of the confederation, the strike in the private sector will be on again.

Mr Sims said after the confederation's executive meeting: "We are and have always been a union which obeys not only the letter but the spirit of the law. We accept the fact that the law is paramount because without law there is anarchy."

"We resent most bitterly the partisan approach of the Court of Appeal towards us and, in particular, the favoured treatment of the employers in the case of appeal and the unfair treatment given to us."

"Nevertheless, this judgment is valid until it has been reversed and we would be betraying our principles if we refused to accept the directions which have been given."

Confederation leaders were faced yesterday with dozens of pickets from the steel areas who insisted on hearing what the executive had decided before it was communicated to the media.

Other pickets went to the Law Courts in the Strand to protest about Lord Denning's ruling. Four were allowed to register their strong feelings to court officials.

Mr Sims refused to be drawn on what might happen if employees at nearly 30 works brought into the strike but not covered by the court order declined to follow the new instructions.

In practice, the union expects that some members will go back before they are told officially to do so, but others may follow local strike committees and stay out.

Mr Sims said that it was essential that the public and steel workers appreciated the circumstances leading to the decision in the Court of Appeal on Saturday.

"The decision of our executive to call out members in the private sector was taken in the honest and sincere belief that our action was perfectly legitimate under the law of the land as declared by statutes, and in particular as defined by the House of Lords in recent decisions culminating in the case of *Express Newspapers v. McShane*", he said.

"In the latter case, the House of Lords overruled and set aside a decision of the Court of Appeal on facts which were indistinguishable from the facts in our case. It is of the utmost significance that two of the Court of Appeal judges were the same in that case as in ours, namely Lord Denning and Lord Justice Laughton."

Our Industrial Editor writes: The ITSC executive decision was welcomed by the British Independent Steel Producers' Association last night. The association which represents more than 100 independent companies, said: "We are only too pleased that common sense has prevailed and that the law has helped us to uphold our work forces' right to work."

Other steel news, page 2



Dr Billy Graham outside Christ Church, Oxford, yesterday. He is to preach in the city and in Cambridge. Report, page 4.

Female donor for heart transplant man

By Nicholas Timmins

Mr Nigel Olney, aged 35, whose heart condition last year helped to save him from imprisonment, yesterday became Britain's eighth heart transplant patient. Mr Olney, a chiropractor of Stanbridge Road, Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire, received the transplant in an operation which lasted five hours and sixteen minutes. It began shortly after midnight yesterday, after his new heart was taken to Papworth Hospital, Cambridge, by air and road on Monday night. It is the first time a donor heart has been flown to a patient in Britain.

The donor was Carol Morris, who died on Monday after a road accident close to her home in Houghton on the Hill, near Leicester, on Friday.

Her father, Mr George Morris, said last night: "She had carried a donor's card for 12 months and it was always her wish that if anything happened to her, her body or parts of it should be used for medical science."

The hospital said last night that Mr Olney's general condition was good. "His heart is working satisfactorily."

Mr Olney, father of two children, who now lives with his parents, was given an 18-month prison sentence, suspen-

ded for two years, at Bedford Crown Court last year, after admitting four offences of deception and four of false accounting and asking for 252 other offences to be taken into account. He worked for Bedfordshire Area Health Authority.

The Chiropractors' disciplinary committee suspended judgment on Mr Olney's case for two years in November after being told that a transplant was the only chance of improving his health.

The transplant, the fourth within a year at Papworth Hospital, was again carried out by a team led by Mr Terence English, the heart surgeon, who was born in South Africa.

Mr Olney's parents, John and Ruth, were allowed a sight of their son through the glass door of the barrier room where Mr Olney is in intensive care.

The transplant was the fourth carried out by Mr English with the help of a £50,000 grant from the National Heart Research Fund. The cost of a successful transplant is put at between £15,000 and £18,000 in the first year.

Professor John Goodwin, a member of the Government's Transplant Advisory Panel, said Dr English's results were "immensely encouraging".

Tory MPs shocked at defence cash limits

By Fred Emery
Political Editor

Conservative backbench MPs expressed deep concern last night that the Government's spending limits might prevent the 3 per cent increase on defence next year which Mrs Margaret Thatcher has promised.

Such a faltering when the Prime Minister has been issuing stout warnings of counter-measures against Soviet aggression is seen as incredible and politically intolerable by some of Mrs Thatcher's own supporters.

Mr Robert Atkins, Conservative MP for Preston, North, and vice-chairman of the party defence committee, said last night that he wanted "stifled at birth" any move by Treasury ministers to hold down the increase.

He had tabled a question for Mr Francis Pym, Secretary of State for Defence, asking him to give the proposed defence budget.

Mr Atkins yesterday asked Mrs Thatcher at question time to follow the United States example, and consider increasing defence spending by up to 10 per cent.

The Prime Minister said there had to be economic growth first; only then could "a great deal more" be considered. The latest official estimate of expected outturn of defence spending this year is £7,824m, with next year's planned spending at £8,062m, an increase of just over 3 per cent, or £225m.

Yesterday the Treasury could not say whether the expected outturn had dropped, which is a key part of the calculation.

The first overt sign of what one newspaper hinted might be a "new campaign" against his cut-cutting Treasury colleagues came during Monday's Commons debate on the east-west crisis.

A member of the Commons Select Committee on Defence, Mr Cranley Onslow, MP for Woking, astounded some of his colleagues by asking the Prime Minister to emphasize that this would be the worst moment to set an example to our allies by cutting defence spending.

Mrs Thatcher clearly did not welcome the question. She said she hoped it was clear "that the Government are resolved to play their full part in Nato and to increase their expenditure by 3 per cent over the outturn this year."

This is no more than a reiteration of what last November's White Paper stated. However, much depends on the word "limit", and on the cash limit assumption that the Government applies to next year's defence spending.

The assumption is that the Government will in its March White Paper on further 1980-81 cuts, set out an estimate of 14 per cent for the increases in costs and prices.

In that case several hundreds of millions of pounds could be "lost" paying the 19.4 per cent "service pay increases due under 'comparability', and the real increase in defence spending would be less than the bold promise.

Late last night there were contradictory indications. Some MPs were inclined to believe that Mr Pym had won his campaign, that defence had been spared the predatory Treasury cuts.

Others were more suspicious of the Cabinet line-up, and one opinion was that the issue might be settled at tomorrow's Cabinet meeting.

The threadbare state of Britain's civil and home defences will be examined candidly tonight in the final episode of the BBC 1 series "War School", assuming it is transmitted.

The new deputy C-in-C United Kingdom land forces and Inspector General of the Territorial Army and Cadets is the controversial general who has featured throughout the series, the Camberley Staff College commandant, newly promoted Lieutenant-General Sir Thomas Kitson.

Canada smuggles four US diplomats and two wives out of Iran

Ottawa, Jan 29.—Four American diplomats and two of their wives flew from Iran on scheduled flights at the weekend, posing as Canadian diplomatic staff, Miss Flora MacDonald, the Canadian External Affairs Minister, announced today.

She said the covert operation was a reason for Canada's temporary closure of its embassy in Tehran yesterday, after the Americans and the last four Canadian staff had left Iran.

Miss MacDonald said the six Americans were not in the United States Embassy compound when it was seized by militant students on November 4 last. They asked for refuge in the Canadian Embassy soon afterwards.

The six who escaped capture were hidden in Canadian Embassy homes and were given Canadian diplomatic passports, while Mr Ken Taylor, the Canadian Ambassador, waited for a good opportunity to get them out of Iran.

Miss MacDonald said she could not confirm a report in the Montreal newspaper *La Presse* that Iranian diplomatic visas were forged on the passports with help from United States secret services.

The six Americans, agricultural or consular officials, left Tehran on scheduled flights at the weekend and went to an American base in West Germany, from where they would fly home, she said. Mr Taylor, whose conduct she praised highly, had left with the last Canadian staff members yesterday and was on holiday in Copacabana.

Miss MacDonald said the opportunity for the departure of the Americans came when attention was diverted from the hostages held at the American Embassy, by the Iranian president.

United States officials confirmed Miss MacDonald's account today.

Miss MacDonald said last night that Canada would not send resident diplomats back to Tehran until the hostages in the American Embassy were released.—Reuter.

Hope for hostages, page 14

dential election last week and the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan.

"We know that each day they stayed there, the danger was becoming greater," she said.

Miss MacDonald said she was still very concerned for the safety and security of the American hostages in Tehran. That was why she had not disclosed Canada's help in getting the six Americans out of Iran when she briefed reporters last night about the "temporary withdrawal" of Canadian Embassy staff.

"I didn't volunteer that information last night, and it didn't come from us," Miss MacDonald said. "I would have preferred to see that this story had not come out, out of a sense that there may be some further concern about the hostages still in Tehran."

That was why she had not disclosed Canada's help in getting the six Americans out of Iran when she briefed reporters last night about the "temporary withdrawal" of Canadian Embassy staff.

The story of the six Americans was broken in Canada by the Washington correspondent of *La Presse*, Jean Pelletier, who is the son of the Canadian Ambassador to France. He said he had known since December 10 that the six were being hidden by the Canadians, but had not reported it "following explanations by the Canadian Government and the American authorities".

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Hope for hostages, page 14

Promise of cash aid to meet soaring fuel bills

By Hugh Noyes
Parliamentary Correspondent
Westminster

Financial help for those finding the greatest difficulty in paying their heating bills was pledged yesterday in the Commons by two senior ministers, Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for Social Services, and Mr David Howell, Secretary of State for Energy.

As anxious MPs on both sides of the House embarked on a debate on the large rises in gas prices announced recently by the Government, Mr Jenkin said that the whole range of help to needy consumers was being reviewed. He recognized the situation by the price increase would not be reflected until next summer's quarter. The economic impact would not be felt until next winter and the results of the review would be announced long before that.

The Government has given a clear promise that special help would be given to those on low incomes, including the elderly, pensioners, the disabled and single parents. No comprehensive fuel scheme was being contemplated but help would be given to those in the greatest need.

The debate opened with a

bitter attack by Dr David Owen, Labour's energy spokesman, on the Government's "callous disregard" for the consequences of inflation. The rise in gas prices would have a devastating effect on the cost of living and gravely prejudice the competitiveness of British industry.

While agreeing that increases had to come, Dr Owen criticized their rate and pace.

Parliamentary report, page 12



Police accused by pickets

From Jim Jones and Donald MacIntyre
Cardiff

Union officials yesterday made official complaints alleging the excess use of force by police after 42 pickets had been arrested during a day in which strikers' attitudes hardened.

At Pontypool 13 pickets were charged with obstruction following scuffles outside Walker-steel stockholders. At Newport 26 pickets were released on bail after pleading not guilty to charges arising from incidents outside GKN Steelstock Ltd.

Mr Keith Brookman, a divisional organiser for the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation, complained officially to the police after the arrests. He said their attitude towards his members seemed to be "escalating".

He added: "I find it rather disturbing. For the first time

since this dispute began the police have started handcuffing some of the men before putting them in the wagon."

At Walker-steel 50 pickets formed a barrier to try to prevent two company lorries moving from the plant. The arrests were made as police moved into clear a path for the vehicles.

Mr Terence Wall, general manager of Walker-steel, said: "The trouble started in spite of all our efforts to reach agreement with the pickets. Although 80 per cent of our business depends on contract lorries, we were only using our own small fleet. None of our 30 workers wants to join this dispute."

At Guest, Keen and Nettlefolds, Cardiff, some of the 100 pickets received minor injuries as they pressed forward to prevent a small van driven by a customer from leaving.

The men claimed that the management had escalated the dispute by employing "cab" drivers to replace transport union men who would not cross picket lines. A company spokesman denied this.

Today the 3,000 strikers at GKN will be advised to return to work in accordance with an executive decision. A mass meeting will be held this morning.

Yesterday's incidents indicated increased frustration among the pickets as management, desperate to retain their customers and to fulfil their orders, continued to move steel through factory gates.

A Port Talbot picket will appear before Swansea magistrates today charged with assault after an incident outside the Signode steel strapping plant at Swansea. It occurred as 100 men picketed the plant.

Sheerness pickets, page 2

The Queen to meet the Pope

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh will pay a state visit to Italy from October 14 to 17 at the conclusion of which they will meet the Pope at the Vatican.

It was announced from Buckingham Palace yesterday. During their visit, the royal couple will use the royal yacht Britannia, now undergoing a refit at Portsmouth.

The Queen has met two previous Popes. As Princess Elizabeth she called on Pope Pius XII in 1951—arousing the criticism of the Free Church of Scotland—and in 1961 when Queen, she and the Duke met Pope John XXIII.

Pope John showed the Queen a special Vatican file on King Henry VIII, who broke away from the Church of Rome to marry his second wife Anne Boleyn.

Pope John Paul II, after his visit to Ireland last year, said he was willing to travel to Britain to promote unity with the Church of England. "I am ready," he told reporters.

A Buckingham Palace spokesman was unable yesterday to confirm that the Queen would be extending an invitation to the Pope to come to Britain.

The state visit in October is at the invitation of President Sandro Pertini.

It was announced in Brasilia yesterday that the Pope has accepted an official invitation to visit Brazil, the world's largest Roman Catholic country, next July.

Arrest at North Sea terminal

A man was detained yesterday afternoon at Sumburgh Airport, Shetland, under the Prevention of Terrorism Act. The man, aged about 30, was stopped at the new Wilness terminal, which handles exclusively flights to the North Sea oil rigs and feeder flights to Sumburgh oil terminal.

He is being interviewed by local detectives at Lerwick.

Californians blasé about the big earthquake

From Ivor Davis
Los Angeles, Jan 29

At a dinner party the other day on the eleventh floor of a Los Angeles block of flats, the Californians and the tremor was quickly forgotten.

Living in the shadow of an imminent earthquake does not, it seems, trouble the majority of Californians despite the fact that geologists, seismologists, and the people who should know are meeting in Los Angeles this week to try to come up with some method of predicting big earthquakes.

Already some experts say that California will be the target of

an earthquake in excess of seven on the Richter Scale during the 1980s; but living in a land of fairly frequent tremors or aftershocks has made many Californians blasé about the big one.

In the wake of all this apparent apathy and by pure coincidence after Thursday's northern California earthquake (2.3 on the Richter Scale), the experts have been gathering in Los Angeles for what is billed as California's first earthquake prediction conference.

At the conference the United States geological survey

announced the establishment of a National Earthquake Prediction Evaluation Council and the names of 12 prominent scientists who will serve on it. The council will hold its first meeting in Reston, Virginia, on February 4 and 5 to review the evidence of other scientists on possible impending earthquakes and to decide whether to issue warnings.

The present conference is on the 27th floor of City Hall, considered by some to be quite an ironic choice. It is not considered one of the safest buildings in Los Angeles.

Muzorewa fury at guerrillas moving freely

In an atmosphere of mutual accusations of malpractice, exchanged by party leaders in Salisbury, Bishop Abel Muzorewa, the UANC leader, said he felt like somebody who had entered a business arrangement with crooks as partners.

Back from a tour of the eastern region, he accused the monitoring force of standing by as guerrillas went to and from assembly areas with impunity. He threatened to ignore the verdict of the Commonwealth observers.

Page 8

Senator Kennedy changes his image

Senator Edward Kennedy has reaffirmed his candidacy for the American Presidency and claims to be the sole Democrat representative of the traditional liberal causes of Franklin Roosevelt and John F. Kennedy. He has called Mr Carter a Republican President. Pundits are predicting defeat for Mr Kennedy in the next election campaign because.

Page 7

Paisley outburst

The conference on Northern Ireland's political future is in difficulties over the fundamental issue of power sharing. The Rev Ian Paisley, a Unionist, would have nothing to do with a cabinet that included people other than those with a majority in an elected assembly.

Page 2

Russia holds Afghans

Several hundred Afghan political prisoners are being held inside the Soviet Union, according to evidence reaching Kabul. In a letter smuggled out of Russia a Muslim says they are working in a steel mill.

Page 7

Fish catch agreed

EEC ministers discussing Community fishing policy have reached agreement on total catch limits and a system for monitoring observance of them. However, the way in which the catch would be shared has yet to be decided.

Page 6



Comedian dies: Jimmy Durante, comic star of films, Broadway and night clubs died in Los Angeles yesterday of pneumonia. He was 86 and had been confined to a wheelchair since a stroke seven years ago. Obituary, page 17

Teachers' strike: Thousands of pupils miss classes in school disputes in two areas. 6

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HOME NEWS

Labour MP says proposed clause in Bill removes pickets' immunity from prosecution

By Fred Emery
Political Editor

Amendments are essential to the Government's Employment Bill if peaceful pickets are to be protected from criminal (as distinct from civil) prosecution, Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Employment, was told last night.

Mr Alexander Lyon, Labour MP for York, who had last month asked Mr Prior of his intention to remove the immunity from criminal prosecution of peaceful pickets, now accepted Mr Prior's assurance that he did not wish to extend the criminal law only to the law, to secondary picketing. However Mr Lyon, who is a barrister, insisted that Mr Prior was getting wrong legal advice, and that in any case the amendments were needed because as Mr Lyon put it, "the issue is so serious".

The argument turns on the Bill's clause 14 limiting second-

dary picketing which would replace section 15 of the Trade Union and Labour Relations Act 1974. Mr Lyon insists that immunity in section 15, from criminal prosecution at present enjoyed by peaceful pickets.

He writes: "On your argument all pickets standing in the highway can be prosecuted for obstruction and there is no right to picket. On my understanding of the law, the police could only prosecute for action going beyond peaceful picketing."

"If your advice is right it is essential to legislate immediately to give legitimate pickets protection against criminal prosecution. If I am right your clause 14 reduces the immunity from criminal prosecution and therefore makes it possible to impose all pickets outside their place of work."

Mr Prior, in a reply on January 25 to Mr Lyon's first

letter of December 19, argues that the effect of his Bill's clause 14 is only to limit the civil law immunity and leaves the criminal law unaffected.

He states that the section's words "it shall be lawful" "do not mean that any acts outside the scope of this section or this clause will necessarily be unlawful. The fact that peaceful picketing at a person's home is now no longer expressly declared to be lawful does not mean that such picketing becomes a criminal offence. The same is true under clause 14 as regards picketing other than at a person's place of work. Picketing confined to peaceful persuasion and argument is not and never has been a criminal offence... clause 14 means simply that a person picketing outside the amended section 15 will no longer have immunity under section 13 from civil proceedings if he induces a breach of contract."

Mr Prior, in a reply on January 25 to Mr Lyon's first

Strikers claim union solidarity is improved

From David Nicholson-Lord
Sheffield

Support for the private sector strike increased in South Yorkshire yesterday as strike leaders claimed that union solidarity had been strengthened by the Court of Appeal's ruling at the weekend.

Mr Stanley Sheridan, of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation's South Yorkshire and Humberside strike coordinating committee, said the "vast majority" of the 5,000 private sector workers in the Sheffield district had stayed out on strike while awaiting the response of the ISTC's executive to Lord Denning's order.

More men were on strike yesterday because of the confusion surrounding the ruling on Monday.

The multi-union coordinating committee based at Rotherham has said it will continue secondary picketing whatever the ISTC executive decides and that safety cover would be withdrawn if a picket was arrested.

Strike leaders yesterday decided the statement by Mr John Pennington, managing director of the British Steel Corporation's Sheffield division, that plants would "get by" if that happened.

The increased militancy of steelworkers was evident outside the private firm of Had-

fields, Sheffield, where there have been many arrests since the strike began; pickets said they would maintain their blockade irrespective of a decision on the ISTC's appeal and called on Mr William Sims, the union's general secretary, to "put his head on the block".

All big firms employing ISTC members were affected by the strike, according to the Sheffield Engineering Employers' Association. As steelworkers' pickets continued the blockade of 70 private companies and stockholders in the West Midlands last night an ISTC official said: "Support is still absolutely solid; there will be no withdrawal until we hear the decision of the House of Lords on our appeal."

Frances Gibb writes from Corby: Safety cover vital to continued production at the Corby steel works is to be reduced further as a result of 150 apprentices being laid off yesterday. Their supervisors, members of the Technical and Supervisory Staffs (TASS), had decided they could not continue overseeing their training.

Steelworkers belonging to the ISTC and the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers have decided not to issue safety passes to tankers coming daily to the plant to clear tar from the coke ovens.

Thatcher rebuttal on EEC aid

By Hugh Moyes
Parliamentary Correspondent
Westminster

Mrs Margaret Thatcher yesterday scathingly rebutted the claim reported to have been made by Mr Benk Vredeling, the EEC Commissioner in charge of social policy, that no approach had been made to the Commission by the British Government for EEC financial help in handling the steel redundancies.

Mr Vredeling said he could not understand why the Government had not acted when generous sums were available from the British Steel Corporation and find alternative work or retraining for 50,000 redundant workers.

The Prime Minister told the House that Mr Vredeling seemed to be indicating that the Government had not applied for aid. In fact, since 1973 there had been 100 such applications.

On December 12 the Department of Industry informed Commission officials of the corporation's proposals for redundancies in 1980-81. The Commission decided, Mrs Thatcher said, that £7.7m should be allocated to shut down and, she added, to laughter from the Tory benches, the allocation was signed by Mr Vredeling.

Parliamentary report, page 12

Two pickets arrested as tempers fray

From Craig Seton
Sheerness

Two flying pickets were arrested at Sheerness, Isle of Sheppey yesterday, as more than 50 tried to stop supplies to the only large private steel works in Britain where members of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation, the main steel union, are still working normally.

The police said last night that two men, from Scunthorpe, were expected to be charged with obstruction. The flying pickets, from Sheffield, Rotherham and Scunthorpe, became increasingly angry during the day as lorries for Sheerness Steel continued to cross the picket line, frequently without stopping.

Sheerness police called for reinforcements from the Kent force and more than 20 were on duty yesterday. Tempers became frayed and they attempted to block lorries entering the modern plant.

The pickets had started the day in good spirits, but by the time of the arrests they were cold, wet and in an increasingly angry mood because of the refusal of union colleagues in the plant to join them.

More than half of the plant's 815 workers are members of the ISTC and they have decided to defy union instructions to join the national steel strike because of Lord Denning's ruling in the Court of Appeal on Saturday.

Workers arriving for the

morning shift ignored pleas from the pickets not to enter the plant, but the drivers of several lorries, mainly members of the Transport and General Workers' Union, agreed not to cross the picket line. Those who did were greeted with loud shouts of "scab".

The plant depends on scrap metal to produce 450,000 tons of steel rods and bars a year. At least one lorry loaded with scrap metal was turned back, together with two lorries containing manganese, which is essential for steel melting, and a tanker containing fuel oil.

The pickets have said they will continue the picket all week. But Sheerness Steel said the picket was having no noticeable effect on supplies.

Rail station into superstore: Green Park, the former London, Midland and Scottish railway station at Bath, is to be developed as a superstore and a park for 328 cars by J. Sainsbury, the

supermarket company. The Victorian building has been closed since 1966. Planning permission has been granted by the Department of the Environment after a public inquiry held last year.

Sainsbury's scheme was supported by Bath City Council. An application by Tesco, Sainsbury's rivals, for a superstore, conference centre, arts hall and car park was refused.

Abortion 'lesser of two evils' in rare cases, Anglican statement says

By Clifford Longley
Religious Affairs
Correspondent

In an official Church of England response to last week's statement by the Roman Catholic Church on abortion, the Anglican statement says that the "lesser of two evils" is the moral choice in some circumstances.

The executive committee of the Board for Social Responsibility of the Church of England issued a statement yesterday after discussing the Roman Catholic statement.

The committee, carefully explaining that it had no authority to speak for the Church of England as a whole, said that in its view abortion could be justified only when a woman's life or health was seriously threatened by a pregnancy.

At the same time, it criticized the medical profession for losing sight of the ethical issues, and urged Christians of all denominations to study the Roman Catholic statement.

The fundamental disagreement between the Church of England and the Roman Catholic Church is over whether the termination of the life of a foetus can be considered a right course of deliberate action.

In Roman Catholic moral theory, because it is always wrong to take innocent life, no circumstances can justify such an intention. It is allowable only as a secondary effect, resulting from actions and intentions towards saving the woman's life.

The Church of England made no such distinction, as set forward again in yesterday's statement, is that abortion is always an evil to be avoided, but can in

some circumstances be judged the lesser of two evils.

Such circumstances are relatively rare, the statement says. "In a society such as ours, however, with advanced facilities for pre-natal diagnosis and care, such situations are today highly exceptional."

"Women today turn to abortion, or are encouraged to seek abortion, for quite other reasons, reasons which frequently involve serious and unsatisfactory personal or family circumstances but which cannot on that account morally justify the extreme step of abortion."

At the same time that this cautiously conservative statement was released, the Bishop of Durham, the Rt Rev John Hargood, has weighed into the argument with a letter to *The Times*, in which he criticizes the "moral blackmail" of the religious campaign against abortion.

He suggests that the Bill now before Parliament could lead to an illiberal interpretation of the law which was in its way to extremes, as the over-liberal interpretation of the 1967 Act.

He argues instead for a code of conduct in the medical profession, which could remedy proven abuses while leaving doctors with the flexibility that they require for the practice of good medicine.

Mr Giles Ecclestone, secretary of the Board for Social Responsibility, interpreted yesterday's statement as meaning that the great majority of abortions now carried out in Britain were not morally justified, but that there were objections to any attempt to impose by Act of Parliament an easy answer to the moral difficulties involved. The abortion issue could not be considered in isolation from the general state of society and its provision for those in need.

Letters, page 15

15,000 are expected to lobby for Corrie Bill

By Annabel Ferriman

More than 15,000 people are expected to take part today in a mass lobby of MPs in support of the Abortion (Amendment) Bill, sponsored by Mr John Corrie, Conservative MP for Ayrshire, North and Bute. The Bill reaches its report stage on February 8.

Five Church leaders from the north-east of Scotland are taking part in support of the Bill and not in opposition to it, as stated in yesterday's edition of *The Times*. The five leaders delegation presenting four of Scotland's churches.

Mr Kenneth Hargreaves, Mayor of Accrington, is travelling in the Royal Navy frigate HMS Nubian, to support the demonstration. Accrington adopted the frigate several years ago and it is the ship's last voyage before going into reserve.

A spokesman for the Royal Navy said yesterday that many towns adopt ships, in much the same way that they twin with cities abroad and it was usual for civic dignitaries to be invited on board for such a voyage.

He was sure that the captain did not know that the mayor was going on to an anti-abortion rally afterwards. The Navy did not have views on that issue and did not become involved in controversial matters.

A counter demonstration against the Bill is being organized for Parliament Square by Nurses for a Woman's Choice on Abortion and Doctors for a Woman's Choice on Abortion.

lobby for a more pro-life attitude.

Messages of support for the delegation have come from the Rev Ronald Christie, of the Free Church, which, who heads the Free Church's own campaign in support of the Bill, as well as from the Rev John Talbot, of the Free Presbyterian Church, Aberdeen.

Mr Kenneth Hargreaves, Mayor of Accrington, is travelling in the Royal Navy frigate HMS Nubian, to support the demonstration. Accrington adopted the frigate several years ago and it is the ship's last voyage before going into reserve.

A spokesman for the Royal Navy said yesterday that many towns adopt ships, in much the same way that they twin with cities abroad and it was usual for civic dignitaries to be invited on board for such a voyage.

He was sure that the captain did not know that the mayor was going on to an anti-abortion rally afterwards. The Navy did not have views on that issue and did not become involved in controversial matters.

A counter demonstration against the Bill is being organized for Parliament Square by Nurses for a Woman's Choice on Abortion and Doctors for a Woman's Choice on Abortion.

Bill to ban children from car front seats

By Ian Bradley
A Bill to ban children from riding in the front seats of cars was introduced in the Commons yesterday.

Mr George Robertson, Labour MP for Hamilton, who sponsored the Bill, said that about 100 children under 15 were injured every year in road accidents and 83 were killed. It was time Parliament acted to reduce that "widespread carnage".

The Bill, which was given an unopposed first reading, would prohibit children aged less than 13 from riding in front seats of cars and provide for seat belts to be fitted in the rear seats of all new cars and a proportion of private-hire cars.

The Bill was welcomed by the Automobile Association, which said it was sympathetic to its object but certain points needed to be clarified before it was introduced.

"No acceptable restraint system has yet been devised for children in cars. Some children could be safer restrained in the front seat than unrestrained in the back seat," an official said.

The Department of Transport also said it was sympathetic to the aim of the Bill but it felt that the problem of children in cars could not be adequately dealt with in a private member's Bill.

It is waiting for evidence from the Joint Committee on Child Accident Prevention. It pointed out that the Highway Code says that children should be restrained in the rear seats of cars.

Several European countries, including France and Luxembourg, already ban children from front seats of cars.

Shell tanker drivers accept 22 pc

About 2,000 Shell tanker drivers have accepted a 22 per cent pay offer, their union, the Transport and General Workers' Union, said last night. Drivers employed by BP, Esso and Texaco have accepted similar offers.

Offer to ambulance men: Britain's 17,000 ambulance men yesterday received a 13 per cent pay offer in line with offers made to other public sector manual workers. The offer will be put to members of the four unions involved.

The settlement date of the annual pay claim is the beginning of the year and after the local authority manual workers settled for 12.5 per cent and with the 250,000 hospital ancillary workers about to settle for the same amount, the ambulance men are almost certain to follow suit.

The basic minimum weekly rate for qualified ambulance men, who form the main part of the offer, is £62.54 but that rises to £69.24 from April 1 as a result of the 21.8 per cent award made last year by the Clegg comparability commission.

Workers earn £10 a week less than their counterparts in gas and electricity

Water unions flex their considerable muscle

By David Felton
Labour Reporter

The dispute in the water industry centres on a claim by the four unions representing 32,000 manual workers that their members are being paid an average of £10 a week less than employees in the gas and electricity industries, sectors which have recently received pay rises.

Many of the water and sewerage workers do dirty, unpleasant jobs, such as working underground on sewer maintenance, and they claim they should have parity with workers in the other public utilities.

In the past year or so they have started to flex their considerable industrial muscle and the strength of grievance among the workers appears to be such that a situation could develop similar to the early days of the steel strike, when the leadership had difficulty in restraining the members.

Threatening leaders in public, do not relish the prospect of lead-

ing the first national water strike. Not only do they fear a backlash from the public, who very soon could be facing intolerable hardships, but they are equally worried about appearing to turn to the Government in what might be seen as a political challenge.

If a strike does take place, however, they will try to make it as effective as possible in the hope that the employers are equally clear about the possibility of a widespread breakdown of the nation's water supply and sewerage system.

Last winter the water and sewerage workers threatened officially to join the "winter of discontent" and in some areas, notably the North-west, there was unofficial action over the pay offer made by the National Water Council.

It was to avert a national industrial action that both sides agreed to set up a joint study to compare wages with those of gas and electricity workers. That study was completed towards the end of last year, with unions and management

agreeing the facts but disagreeing on interpretation. The unions claim that the study showed a differential of about £10 a week, or 16 per cent, and when this year's pay claim was submitted comparing it with the gas and electricity rates, it was followed by a £15 a week increase in the basic minimum rate, a five-hour reduction in the working week, longer holidays and improved holiday pay.

The total claim was worth at least 46 per cent.

The employers, bound by the Government's 13 per cent cash limit, replied with an offer of 13 per cent which the unions rejected just before Christmas. During eight hours of talks on Monday the water council, representing regional water authorities and the private water supply companies, increased the offer on basic rates by £2.50 a week, making the total package worth about 17 per cent.

More talks are to be held on Friday. Monday's meeting was the employers' response to the unions' threat of a national

strike unless there was a commitment to negotiate "meaningfully" on comparability. Since the first strike threat by the General and Municipal Workers' Union, attitudes in the three other unions in the industry, the National Union of Public Employees, the agricultural workers and the Transport and General Workers' hardened. The agricultural workers executive decided last week that it wanted the £10 a week paid in full.

The GMWU, a moderate union which absorbed the old water workers' union in the mid-1970s, is taking the lead as the biggest union in the industry, but the militant NUPE, which represents workers at the "dirty end" is not prepared to play second fiddle all the time.

Basic minimum rates are the focus of union negotiations. The basic is just under £50 a week, but the employers said that their December offer would cost £18m and raise average weekly earnings to between £51 and £114.

Talks on BBC 'Newsnight' dispute break down Paisley threat to power-sharing

By Kenneth Gosling

Talks at the offices of the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service aimed at resolving the BBC dispute that blacked out *Newsnight* and the first edition of *Newsnight* and curtailed the *Nine O'Clock News* on Monday night broke down yesterday.

The dispute is to be discussed by the Association of Broadcasting and Allied Staffs and its television branches today.

The black-out came after a film crew which refused to work on a *Newsnight* item was taken off the payroll. The union called out all its mem-

bers employed in the London television service.

Because *Newsnight* covers both news and current affairs, two departments which normally have separate working arrangements and agreements, talks have been taking place for some time to agree on new procedures.

The sticking point between the union and the BBC management is over arrangements for sending film crews to cover reports for *Newsnight*.

The union says the BBC should have attempted to put on the programme while negotiations were still in progress.

From Christopher Thomas
Belfast

The Stormont constitutional conference on Northern Ireland's political future was in grave difficulties last night over the fundamental issue of power sharing.

The tone was set by the Rev Ian Paisley, leader of the Democratic Unionists, who said bluntly that he would have nothing to do with a new cabinet that included people other than those with the majority in an elected assembly.

He said: "No institutionalised Irish dimension or enforced power sharing can be imposed on Northern Ireland, if any British government ever tries to enforce this then the Unionist people will again band

together and smash it. There will be no bending. I am in no mood to be trifled with."

The outbreak was reminiscent of the Mr Paisley of old. Since the delicate negotiations began before Christmas, to get the conference under way, he has been uncharacteristically conciliatory; his mood may now have reverted. It may, however, be nothing more than an attempt to reassure his party rank and file.

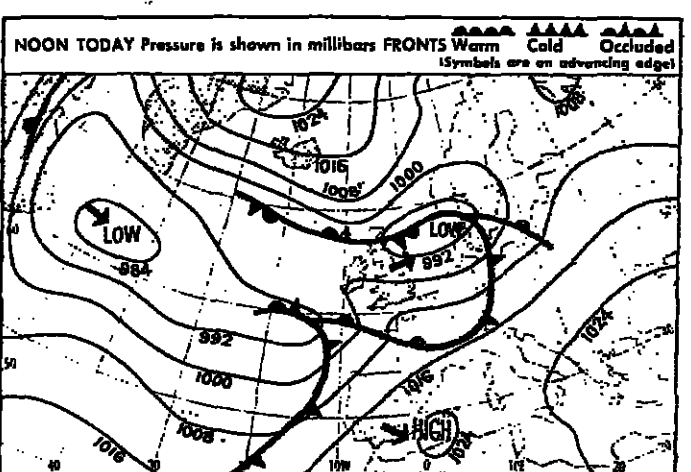
Mr Seamus Mallon, deputy leader of the Social Democratic and Labour Party, was strongly critical of Mr Paisley's "bullying". But there is still no talk of a walkout. All parties seem determined to hold the conference together, although that is becoming increasingly difficult.

The clash came on the sixth item of the fourteen-point agenda: the modus operandi of a future administration in Northern Ireland.

The party positions at present are: The DUP is willing to accommodate the SDLP to an unspecified extent in an elected assembly, but will have no truck with power sharing at executive level; the SDLP at this stage is merely seeking an assurance on its role in an elected body; the non-sectarian Alliance Party favours a system of elected committees with protections for the Catholic minority.

Yesterday was spent examining the Alliance Party's position and that will continue in a short session today.

Weather forecast and recordings

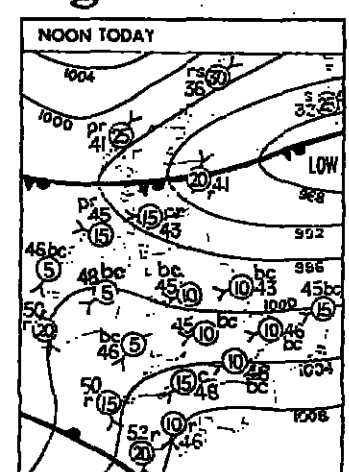


Today
Sun rises: 7.43 am. Sun sets: 4.45 pm.
Moon rises: 6.25 am. Moon sets: 3.36 pm.
Full moon: February 1.
Lighting up: 5.15 pm to 7.12 am.
High water: London Bridge, 12.28 am, 6.7m; 12.55 pm, 6.7m; Avonmouth, 6.02 am, 12.1m; 6.31 pm, 12.3m; Dover, 9.57 am, 6.1m; 10.24 pm, 6.2m; Hull, 5.01 am, 6.6m; 5.19 pm, 6.8m; Liverpool, 10.12 am, 6.6m; 10.35 pm, 6.6m.
1m=3.28ft.

A depression will move away E over the North Sea but a frontal trough will affect Scotland. A further trough will reach SW England later.

Forecast for 6 am to midnight:
London, East Anglia, Midlands (E) and W: central S, central N and SE England: Sunny periods, dry; wind W moderate backing S light later; max temp 7 to 10°C (45 to 50°F).
SW England, Channel Islands: Sunny intervals, isolated showers; cloudier by evening with some rain; wind SW moderate or fresh backing S; max temp 10 to 12°C (50 to 54°F).
Wales and NW Scotland: Rain, fair; rain S; sun; sun, snow.

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Drizzle	F
London	10	W	1-2		50
Edinburgh	8	W	1-2		46
Glasgow	7	W	1-2		45
Belfast	9	W	1-2		48
Cardiff	10	W	1-2		50
Exeter	11	W	1-2		52
Manchester	9	W	1-2		48
Newcastle	10	W	1-2		50
Nottingham	10	W	1-2		50
Sheffield	9	W	1-2		48
Southampton	11	W	1-2		52
Stirling	8	W	1-2		46
Truro	11	W	1-2		52
Wolverhampton	9	W	1-2		48
York	10	W	1-2		50



Yesterday
Temp: max 6 am to 10 am, 5°C (41°F); min 6 pm to 8 pm, 2°C (36°F). Humidity: 5 pm, 66 per cent. Rain, 24 h to 6 pm, 1.1 in. Sun, 24 h to 6 pm, 1.1 in. Bar, mean level, 6 pm, 1,012.4 millibars. Falling 100 millibars = 29.53 in.

Overseas selling prices
Australia 100: 100.00
Canada 100: 100.00
France 100: 100.00
Germany 100: 100.00
Italy 100: 100.00
Japan 100: 100.00
Netherlands 100: 100.00
Norway 100: 100.00
Sweden 100: 100.00
Switzerland 100: 100.00
USA 100: 100.00
West Germany 100: 100.00

Published daily except Sundays, January 1, February 1, and 29, 1980. Prices are in pence unless otherwise stated. All figures are in pence unless otherwise stated. All figures are in pence unless otherwise stated.

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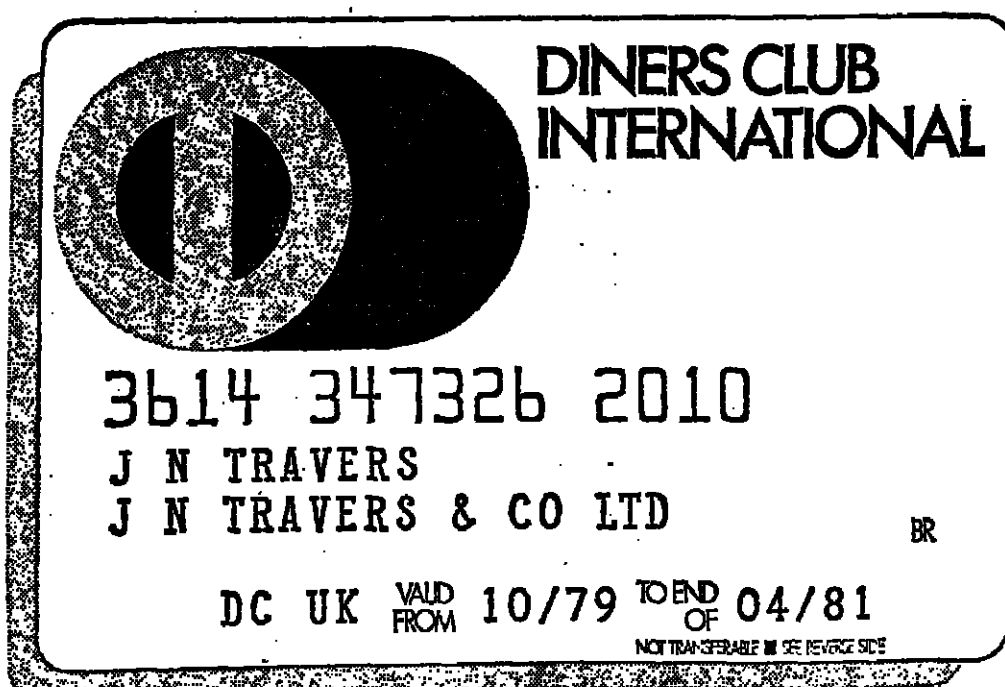
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HOME NEWS

Mr Callaghan says attempts to move games were 'botched'

By George Clark
Political Correspondent

Mr James Callaghan, the Opposition Leader, indicated yesterday that he thinks Mrs Margaret Thatcher and the Government have botched their attempt to get the 1980 Olympic Games moved from Moscow to a new venue or venues.

Basically, he agreed with Mrs Thatcher's efforts to get the Games moved. "But I think we have got into a mess about this," he said.

"I did not criticise the Government publicly in the Commons debate on Monday because I did not think that this was the time to do so."

"The Western position could have been coordinated far more than it was before we launched out on this."

Mr Callaghan's views were given in an interview with Mr Robin Day, recorded for the BBC *Panorama* programme on Monday, but which could not be transmitted because of an industrial dispute. Yesterday extracts of the interview were given in the radio programme *The World at One*, presented by Mr Day.

Mrs Thatcher has said that if the Games cannot be moved to other venues, the Government would consider what advice they should give to the British competitors. Mr Callaghan was asked what his advice would be.

He replied that "they should

not take part in all the flummery and the rest of the celebrations, but if they wish to go and run, they should go and run."

But everyone should be aware that the Soviet Union had not really changed its attitude on human rights and individual freedoms. "You cannot respect a nation which treats its citizens in the way the Soviet Union has treated Dr Sakharov," Mr Callaghan said. "But if the athletes wish to go and run, then that is it."

Asked whether, if he had been Prime Minister, his approach would have been fundamentally different from Mrs Thatcher's, Mr Callaghan said: "No, not in the short term, though I am not sure about the games. But in the long term, the Prime Minister's speech did not really look at the prospects beyond the immediate, so-called 'punishment' of the Soviet Union."

Referring back to the Helsinki agreement on human rights, Mr Day asked whether, in the light of recent events, detente was dead.

"It can't be dead because the alternative is a return not only to the cold war but, owing to the development of nuclear weapons, perhaps to a nuclear war," Mr Callaghan thought the reaction of the United States had been right.

US Congress vote, page 7

Rebuff over help for Euro-MPs

By Michael Hatfield

Mrs Barbara Castle, the former Cabinet minister and now leader of the European Labour MPs, was given a sharp rebuff by her fellow parliamentarians last night when she sought backbench help to give European MPs House of Commons facilities.

The incident is another milestone in the blocking by the Opposition of any move to allow European MPs, from any party, to share the privileges of Westminster MPs.

Mrs Castle, along with Mr Richard Balfie, chairman of the Labour European MPs, and Mr Richard Caborn, put their case at a meeting of the Labour Party backbench parliamentary affairs group.

They emphasized the importance of strong links between Westminster and the European Parliament and argued the need for access to some of the services available to MPs.

But the majority at the meeting, chaired by Mr George Cunningham, argued that the issue raised constitutional problems. One of the arguments was: Why should European MPs be given any more access than local councillors?

The Euro-MPs apparently toned down their demands by seeking access only to Parliament, so that contact might be maintained; their original case argued for access to the vote office, restaurants and parliamentary services.

NHS guidelines approved

New guidelines designed to minimize the effects of industrial disputes in the National Health Service were welcomed yesterday by Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for Social Services.

The guidelines, approved by management and unions, come into force immediately.

Both sides hope they will end escalating job strikes such as that at Charing Cross Hospital in London.

Mr Jenkin said: "In the past, the lack of sensible procedures has led to damaging escalation of trivial problems."

The guidelines, agreed by the NHE General Whitley Council, say disputes should be settled at the lowest possible operational level.

If that fails, a conciliation panel should be convened, representing the parties to the dispute, under an independent chairman. If that fails, the dispute may be referred to the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service.

Toyota describes Datsun attack as dishonourable

By Peter Waymark
Motoring Correspondent

Datsun's attack on the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders in its latest newspaper advertisement was described as dishonourable by a rival Japanese car importer yesterday.

Mr John Pride, managing director of Toyota GB, said: "If you join a club you must expect it to operate in the way it thinks best. If you disagree with that policy the option is to resign. As members of the club you must go along with the rules."

The Datsun advertisement claimed that the company's dealers were being kept short of cars because of import restrictions negotiated by the SMMT with the Japanese manufacturers' association. The restrictions were designed to help the British car industry but had helped only European importers.

Mr Pride said firms importing Japanese goods into Britain had to accept that trade must be two-way. His company, the Inchcape group, tried to maintain a balance, selling British goods to Japan in return for imported Toyota cars.

The Datsun advertisement appeared in several national newspapers last Friday. It was withdrawn from *The Times* after changes had been requested by the editor, Mr William Rees-Mogg.

£91,000 forest appeal

An appeal launched in November for £95,000 to preserve Ashdown Forest, Sussex, has raised £91,000, it was announced yesterday.

Extremists 'unite to set homes on fire'

From Tim Jones
Cardiff

A letter claiming that extreme Welsh Nationalist organizations had united and were responsible for the campaign of fire-raising which has destroyed 11 homes in the principality was examined by police yesterday.

It was addressed to the BBC at Bangor and was delivered to a two-storey farmhouse near Llandudno. The house, which had not been occupied for several months, was owned by a family who live in Cambridge.

An organization calling itself Cadwyr Cymru—The Keepers of Wales—claimed in the letter that its campaign had the backing and support of the IRA and E.T.A., the Basque separatist group.

The letter was passed to the police, who formed a team of detectives after the attacks began last month.

It said that three militant groups, the Free Wales Army, the Patriotic Front and NAC—the Movement to Defend Wales—had combined to destroy the properties which they saw as a direct attack on the cultural and linguistic base.

The letter bore a crest depicting a white eagle similar to that used by the Free Wales Army, which was active in the 1960s and blew up pipelines carrying water to England.

Attempts to destroy two other homes failed despite the use of paraffin and an incendiary device.

Most of the homes set on fire have been empty, but in one incident in Anglesey a woman was sleeping in an upstairs bedroom. The smell of smoke woke her and she escaped.

At Newtown, in Powys, a middle-aged couple had to move from a terrace cottage when an adjoining building was set alight.

Near one cottage destroyed by fire the letters BRC, which could stand for Bryddin Rhyddid Cymru—Welsh for the Free Wales Army, were scrawled on a wall.

An earlier letter sent from Oswestry is also in police hands. It has no crest and without naming any organization it says that rural communities are being destroyed by second homes and that action should be taken "before these wretched gestures occur again."

The farmhouse is owned by Mr Alan Watson, a Cambridge University don. Chief Insp Delmi Evans said that the last person to visit the farmhouse on January 20 was Mr Watson's son, Andrew, a student at Bristol University.

Woman's equal pay case affects many claims

By Marcel Berlins
Legal Correspondent

A case being heard by the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg today could have significant implications for the principle of "equal pay for equal work" in Britain.

If the decision favours the woman who has claimed that she has been denied equal pay on the ground of sex discrimination, the impact of Britain's Equal Pay Act may be increased.

Mrs Wendy Smith has been employed by Macarthy's Ltd, which deals in pharmaceutical products, stockroom manager at £10 a week less than her male predecessor.

An industrial tribunal upheld her claim that the Equal Pay Act had been breached and the Employment Appeal Tribunal also ruled in her favour. The company appealed to the Court of Appeal, which referred the case to the EEC court in Luxembourg.

The Treaty of Rome lays down that "men and women should receive equal pay for equal work".

Mr Anthony Lester, QC, for Mrs Smith, is claiming before the European Court that if comparisons could not be made with previous incumbents of the same job, the Equal Pay Act could never apply to jobs of which there was only one at any particular time.

The EEC Commission also supports Mrs Smith's claim. The United Kingdom government opposes her case on the ground that the treaty does not extend to a comparison of non-contemporaneous employees, and denies that the council directive is directly applicable in the United Kingdom.

Mrs Thatcher acts to avoid disruption of Government machine over pay Secret committees to fight Civil Service strikes

By Peter Hennessey

The Prime Minister has established two secret Cabinet committees charged with finding ways of containing Civil Service strikes and mitigating their effects on the Government machine and the public.

Ministers and senior civil servants are seriously worried that negotiations in the Civil Service pay round could be accompanied by disruption even more severe than that which occurred in Mr James Callaghan's "winter of discontent".

The two committees, one ministerial, one of civil servants, are offshoots of Mrs Margaret Thatcher's Economic Strategy Committee. The ministerial group, the Economy Civil Service Committee, known in Whitehall by its initials, ECS,

was originally the responsibility of Lord Soames, Lord President of the Council.

After his appointment as Governor of Southern Rhodesia, the chair was taken by Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Employment. Working to Mr Prior's group is the Economy (Official) Civil Service Committee, EOCSS, with Mr George Moseley, a Civil Service Department deputy secretary, as chairman.

The primary preoccupation of the two committees has been the legality of laying-off, without pay, non-striking officials who have no work to do because of disruptive action taken by fellow civil servants elsewhere.

The possibility is known to Whitehall as the "slaughter of the innocents" option.

The committees have been told by the Government's law officers that "slaughtering the innocents" would be illegal. A new trade union law would be needed. Such a statute has been ruled out because private sector employers would not support it. It has been judged impractical to introduce a law that would apply to the Civil Service alone.

The committees have considered papers which draw lessons from the disruption of 1979. Individual departments have been urged to revise their contingency plans in the light of recent experience, an exercise co-ordinated by the Cabinet secretariat of Mr Prior and Mr Moseley.

Ministers have also considered concluding "no-strike" agreements with vital computer

staff and the insertion of "suspension without pay" clauses into the 1980 Civil Service pay agreement.

Both courses have been judged impractical given the hostile mood of the Civil Service unions who are themselves making contingency plans for industrial action.

Mrs Thatcher has exempted Civil Service disputes from her general policy of laissez faire to strikes. Where strikers are their own employees, ministers have been urged by the Prime Minister to take a "strong line".

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Photograph by John Manning

New bishop: The successor to the Right Rev Robert Runcie, Archbishop-elect of Canterbury, as Bishop of St Albans is to be the Ven John Taylor, Archdeacon of West Ham, the author of a number of studies of the Old Testament and a Hebrew scholar (Our Religious Affairs Correspondent writes). He

is photographed with his wife, Linda. The Archdeacon joined the RAF as an officer cadet in 1952 and won the Sword of Honour as top cadet. "It was one of the greatest moments of my life," he says. From the RAF he gained a research fellowship to the Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

Commons move to get unpaid rates on diplomatic mission building

By a Staff Reporter

Westminster City Council was owed more than £500,000 in rates on diplomatic missions. Mr John Wheeler, Conservative MP for Paddington, said yesterday.

He has tabled a series of Commons questions to Sir Ian Gilmour, the Lord Privy Seal, urging the Foreign and Commonwealth Office to intervene.

The rates outstanding are: Uganda High Commission, £58,900; Rhodesia House, £22,300; The Strand, WC2 (£324,578);

Iraqi Embassy, flats at Consort Lodge, NW8 (£86,777); High Commission for Nigeria, 20/22 Inverness Terrace, W2 (£27,306); Government of Cambodia, 21 Avenue Road, NW8 (£11,583).

A spokesman for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office said that it paid rates on all buildings used for diplomatic purposes and it had no bills outstanding.

Rhodesia House, however, had not been used for diplomatic purposes since the unilateral declaration of independence in 1965 and the former Cambodian Embassy was now occupied by the Moonies, a religious sect.

Diplomatic relations had been broken off with Uganda for a period and all outstanding rates on the building could date back to that period.

If any embassy owned a building which was used for other purposes, by the country's national airline, for example, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office was not responsible for the rates, he said.

In brief

More held under Terrorism Act

Police in Britain detained 857 suspects under the Prevention of Terrorism (Temporary Provisions) Act during 1979, over 200 more than in the previous year, according to Home Office statistics issued yesterday.

Since the Act was introduced in 1974 to counter IRA activity, it has been used to detain more than 4,500 people. Only one fifth of those detained during the year were later charged or excluded from Britain.

Soldier recalled

Fusilier Stuart Smith-Blain, who was seen on television shouting at Sinn Féin marchers in Birmingham at the weekend, was yesterday recalled to Gosport barracks, Hampshire, to face disciplinary action.

Sausage standard

Pork sausages should contain at least 35 per cent lean meat, the Food Standards Committee recommends in a report to the Government.

Cleaning fluid death

A verdict of accidental death was recorded yesterday on Sara Reading, aged 13, of Bracknell Road, Camberley, Surrey, who died after inhaling dry cleaning fluid.

Man dead in cell

An unidentified man arrested on suspicion of burglary was found dead in police cells at Poole, Dorset, last night.

Explosion at flat

Mr Patrick Shannon, aged 74, of Exmouth Way, Birkenhead, was critically ill in Birkenhead General Hospital last night after an explosion at his flat.

£100,000 jewelry theft

Jewelry valued at £100,000 was stolen yesterday from a shop in Huddesdon.

Some hostesses at club willing for intercourse

Half of the hostesses at Churchill's Club in the West End of London would be willing to have sexual intercourse with customers, it was claimed yesterday.

A man looking for intercourse would be able to find a willing partner at the club, Miss Carmen said, who was one of the hostesses there. She said there were about 20 hostesses at the club in New Bond Street on any given night.

Some girls left the club with customers, but that was not with the knowledge of the manager, she said. She said she used to sleep with customers in return for presents of between £50 and £60.

Harry Meadows, aged 63, of Queen Street, Mayfair, and his son, Andrew, aged 38, of Chesterfield Gardens, Mayfair, directors of the club, deny living off the immoral earnings of hostesses at the club between 1975 and 1977.

The trial continues today.

Birth and death grants defeat

By Pat Healy
Social Services Correspondent

The Government yesterday defeated attempts to restore the value of the maternity and death grants this November, when the net increase in social security benefits is due. Mrs Lynda Chalker, Under-Secretary of State for Social Security, told the standing committee of the Social Security Bill that the £93m cost in a full year was too much in present circumstances.

Opposition amendments designed to restore the grants to their value when they were last raised and then to index-link them, were defeated by ten votes to nine.

The decision does not rule out all change next November, since the Government has indicated that it is reviewing both

Nuclear inspectorate faces increasing staff shortage

By Nicholas Timmins

The Nuclear Installations Inspectorate, which oversees the safety of Britain's nuclear power stations and fuel factories, is facing an increasing shortage of skilled staff.

With the recent expansion in the inspectorate's role of providing more information for the public debate with all the tasks facing the inspectorate.

It is 17 short of its complement of 104. Mr Gausden, writing in the foreword to the inspectorate's biennial report, said that was mainly due to two problems. The inspectorate's London-based staff faced dispersal to Bootle, Lancashire, which had met a strong response from most inspectors.

This is also reflected in the refusal of possible new entrants

to take an appointment in London, with the knowledge that they will be required to move to the north of England.

"It is also clear that engineers and scientists of the calibre required who are employed in government service have had relatively little contact with the nuclear industry and salaries have been more attractive in outside organizations."

A representative of the inspectors' group in the Institution of Professional Civil Servants said salaries in the generating industry for equivalent jobs were about £14,000 compared with just over £11,000 for most inspectors.

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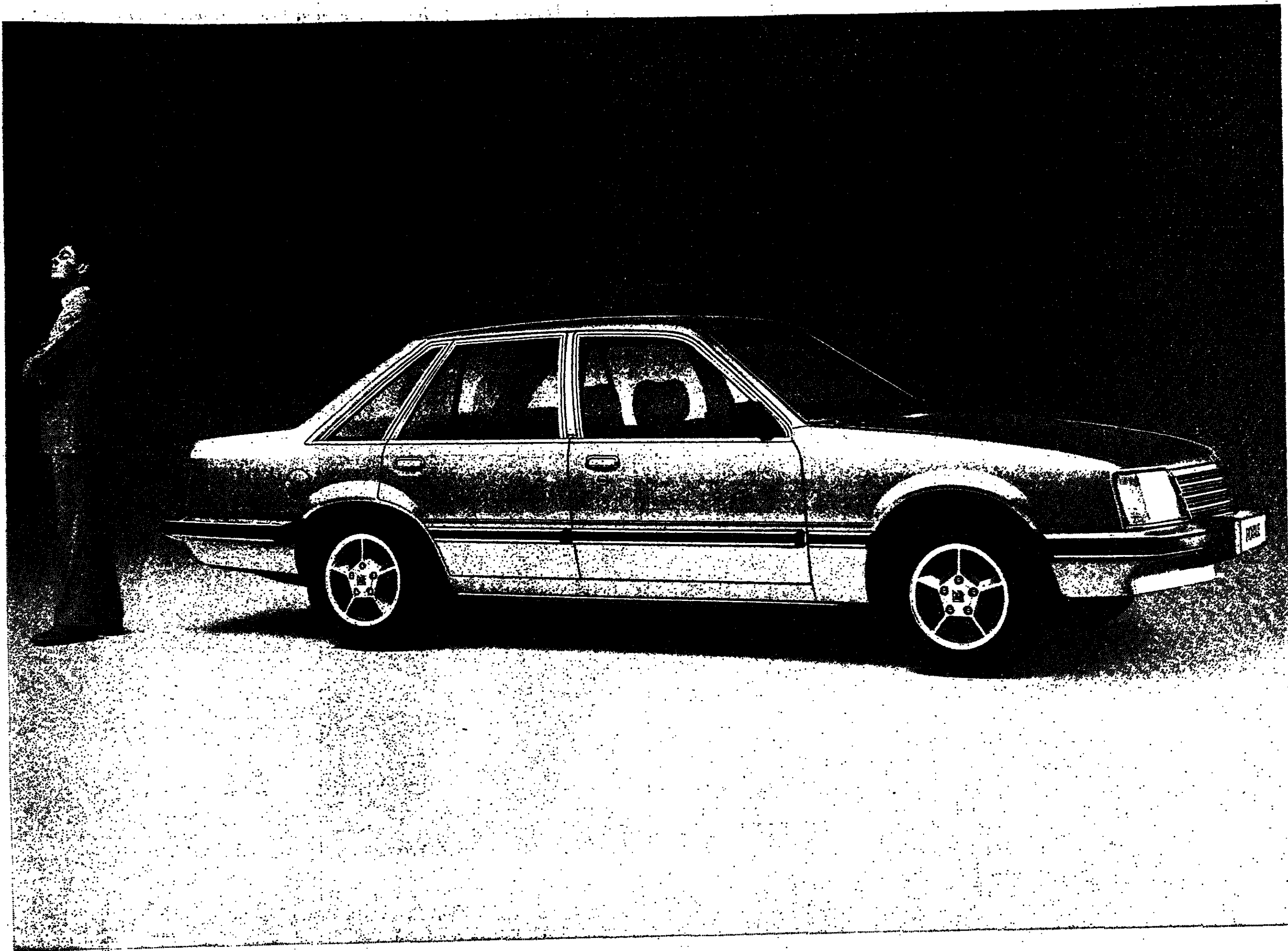
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These days, car salesmen offer you the options list the way waiters offer you the à la Carte.

Leaving you to choose the fixtures and fittings according to your pocket.

A state of affairs which we find lamentable.

Hence, the appointments, generally found on the options lists of other cars, are already present in the Royale. For example, automatic transmission is standard. (You can have manual, if you prefer, at no additional cost.)

Nor is the car required to embrace a variety of humbler engines.

Only one is offered: a 2.8 litre 6-cylinder unit that accelerates the Royale to a top speed of 115 mph*.

Inside, the furnishings are such that even the most critical of travellers will find little to carp at.

The seats are covered in crushed velour with head

restraints at the rear as well as the front.

You can even adjust the driver's seat for height, as well as for reach and rake.

Additionally, the steering wheel can be tilted and the steering is powered.

Those interested in the smaller details will find

central locking for the doors, an electronic boot release, a sliding steel sunroof and radio/stereo cassette player.

While outside are double-skinned metallic paint, alloy wheels and a headlamp wash/wipe system.

In fact, the Royale's specification is so complete that the only option offered is air conditioning.

Your Vauxhall dealer will be glad to demonstrate these virtues to you.

And you'll find he hasn't the slightest inhibition about extolling the car's remarkable value.

SALOON £2,770. COUPE £3,090. PRICES CORRECT AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS. INCLUDE £200 V.A.T. DELIVERY & NUMBER PLATES EXTRA. *MANUFACTURER'S FIGURES.

Is it vulgar to talk about value in a luxury car?

HOME NEWS

Inquiry told Coal Board has failed to show national need for mine in the Vale of Belvoir

From John Young
Planning Reporter
Grantham

Clear and unmistakable proof of national need was a first essential for the granting of planning permission to mine in the Vale of Belvoir, Sir Frank Layfield, QC, said yesterday. In the 10 weeks that the public inquiry had so far lasted the National Coal Board had failed to demonstrate such a need. The board's case was quite inadequate, he claimed.

Sir Frank was addressing the inquiry on behalf of Leicester-shire County Council, one of more than fifty objectors to the mining proposals.

"No single case since the end of the Second World War has been the subject of a planning inquiry where the proposals in question have had so great an impact on the English countryside," he said. "Nor have any been promoted which are likely to continue over a greater period."

So far the inquiry had almost exclusively contemplated the problems which would arise if permission were refused. He was now asking it to consider the economic as well as the environmental dangers of granting permission.

The structure plan setting out strategic development policy for the county had been approved in May, 1976. At that time the existence of the Belvoir coal reserves was well known, as could be seen from the board's document *Plan for Coal*, formulated in 1973 and published in June, 1974. That plan made it quite clear that if any new mineral workings were to be approved they would have to be shown to be in the national interest.

It was quite unrealistic to put forward an argument for the extraction of coal on any



Sir Frank Layfield, QC: Board's case "quite inadequate"

large scale independently of an assessment of overall national energy needs, he continued. But the board had presented no such assessment.

The Department of Energy forecasts showed the demand for coal for power stations peaking in 1990 at between 89 million and 94 million tons and falling to between 66 million and 75 million tons in the year 2000. It appeared therefore that the Belvoir mines would come into operation in the very decade in which a steep decline in demand for coal was taking place.

"Are not these very surprising figures on which to base the case for an overwhelming national demand for coal in the first 20 years of the Belvoir project?" Sir Frank asked.

Nor could the case for economic need be justified by possible demands in markets other than power stations, he argued. No evidence had been advanced for the emergence of such a

demand and even if such a demand did arise, there was no evidence that Belvoir was the place best fitted to meet it.

"We invite you to say that the coal board's case fails on the essential question of need," he stated.

Sir Frank said that environmental effects had been considerably underestimated. The vale was one of the few areas of southern England which were relatively unspoiled and where agriculture was unhindered in supplying the nation's food. The board's proposals would undoubtedly cause important agricultural losses.

Some 595 hectares would be lost permanently and 589 hectares lost temporarily or more accurately, not entirely permanently. Apart from the mine shafts and tips, land would be taken for a large number of other projects.

If the life of the coalfield was extended from 50 to 75 years the additional land take was estimated at between 166 and 366 hectares, making a total of between 1,350 and 1,550 hectares.

Among other drawbacks he listed were the severance of farms; damage from subsidence and disturbance to water mains, electricity supply lines and high pressure gas mains. There were considerable doubts about the board's estimates of the rate of tip restoration and of the amount of land that would be out of use at any one time.

"There would be a disturbing and endemic loss of agricultural land on a scale unprecedented except in the case of the very largest defence installations," he said. The council's estimate for the loss in crop values was £20.6m over 50 years and £28.1m over 75 years, compared with the board's figures of £3.2m and £4.9m respectively.

Lerwick guizers go on the march

From Ronald Faux
Lerwick

Jan the Bear Hunter, the Guizer Jarl, flames reflecting in the metal of his winged helmet, breastplate and axe, led his squad of grandly robed and rowdy Vikings through the streets of Lerwick last night.

Behind them 800 torch bearers in carnival dress marched and sang songs about fiery forefathers, battle cries, thundering o'er the quaking earth and tyrants being brought to their knees.

With the ritual burning of a Viking longship turning the night sky crimson, another Up-Helly-Aa of feasting, drinking and bonfires had begun.

The festival is really a private affair for the folk of Lerwick, but Southmoothers (anyone from outside the island) are welcome if they are tenacious enough to reach Shetland on the last Tuesday in January when air and seaways are invariably struck by snow, fog, blizzards or all three.

The Up-Helly-Aa rule is that the procession takes place whatever the weather and with pagan zest the 40 squads of guizers (disguised men), each squad with its particular theme and established costumes, march through the town and take turns to visit a dozen or so halls where they perform spectacular acts.

The festivities never end before another wintry dawn has crept like a headache over Lerwick and last year it was four in the afternoon before the Guizer Jarl crashed into his bed.

Jan the Bear Hunter, alias Mr Donald Leslie, greengrocer and confectioner, said that although Up-Helly-Aa had all the air of a pagan Viking affair, the festival in its present form was hardly a hundred years old.

There are strong Norse connections, hence the adoption over the years of such heroic Nordic names as King Magnus Barelegs, Halfdan the Black, Tore the Hound and Earl Thorfinn the Mighty for the Guizer Jarl.

Up-Helly-Aa is a homey celebration underlying the island's ancient legends and distinctive guizeries of Shetlanders. This sense of identity has taken stronger form since the oil industry arrived at Sullom Voe and the economy of the islands came under pressure.

The Shetland Movement, an independent group, now has more than 500 members, including nearly half the elected council. It is demanding a new status for Shetland, more autonomy and better deal for the depleted fishing industry.

Once the Up-Helly-Aa embers have cooled the movement will put proposals for important constitutional reforms to its members. If agreed, they will go to the Shetland Islands Council and then to the Government.

WEST EUROPE



A policeman picks his way through the debris after the blast at the Syrian embassy in Paris.

Man dies after bomb explosion at embassy

From Charles Hargrove
Paris, Jan 29

A man was killed and eight people were injured, three of them badly, when a bomb exploded this morning at the Syrian embassy in Paris, two hours before the arrival of Mr Abdul Halim Khaddam, the Syrian Foreign Minister.

The explosion occurred at 11.30 am when about 30 members of the embassy staff were on the premises. It wrecked the whole of the ground floor and part of the first floor.

A young French woman, applying for a visa, had a miraculous escape. The Syrian ambassador was in his office on the first floor at the back of the building. The dead man is Mr Hammani Marwane, aged 34, a member of the administrative staff who died from his wounds shortly afterwards.

The bomb appears to have been placed in the office where visas are delivered and the force of the blast was such that a chambermaid who happened to be on the spot said she was hurled against a wall. Firemen had to clear a mass of debris before they could reach the injured.

A Syrian diplomat said there had been no threats against the embassy recently and there was no special security guard in the building, located on the edge of the Bois de Boulogne. He did not exclude the possibility that the bomb attack was connected with the visit of the Syrian minister, who is in Paris as the guest of M Jean Francois-Poncet, his French colleague.

Additional police measures were taken immediately after the explosion for the minister's security. This is the third attack against an Arab embassy since 1973, when a Palestinian terrorist group took 16 hostages at the Saudi Arabian embassy.

In 1976, two people, including the head of the Sicilian regional administration whose killers have still not been identified beyond doubt as political terrorists; three policemen and a carabinieri officer. Any army officer has been severely wounded and 18 policemen were injured in the

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EEC agree on total catch limits for fish

From Michael Hornsby
Brussels, Jan 29

Mr Peter Walker, the Minister of Agriculture, and his EEC colleagues today approved total catch limits for 1980 for the main species of fish caught in Community waters, as well as a system of catch reporting to enable observers of these limits to be monitored by the European Commission.

Agreement on these two points represents important progress in the two years of negotiations on a common EEC fisheries policy. But the question of how to share out the total catch is still unanswered.

Mr Walker had indicated that Britain might be willing to modify its previous blanket opposition to any fishing agreements with non-EEC countries prior to a settlement of the Community's internal fishing arrangements.

The British attitude, first laid down by Mr Walker's Labour predecessor, Mr John Silkin, has held up agreements on reciprocal fishing rights with a number of Scandinavian countries. Britain may now be ready to look at such agreements on a case by case basis.

Mr Walker's more conciliatory approach is seen by some as an attempt to improve the atmosphere for discussion of Britain's claim for a reduction in its contribution to the EEC budget. The French, among others, have linked any concessions on the budget to evidence of British goodwill in other areas.

It is still not clear, however, whether Mr Walker is prepared to be more flexible over what have hitherto been Britain's two main demands: exclusive fishing rights for British fishermen within 12 miles of the coast and a preferential share of the catch between 12 and 50 miles.

British waters contain about 60 per cent of all the fish caught in the EEC's collective 200-mile "pool". And British waters up to now, supported by British fishermen, have been the most productive in the EEC. British trawlers should be allocated about 45 per cent of the total Community catch.

The best offer to date would not give British fishermen more than about 25 per cent of the total catch, and there is no sign yet that other member states are prepared to be more generous than this.

Surplus butter sales cannot be stopped

From Our Own Correspondent
Brussels, Jan 29

Despite huffing and puffing from British ministers about the "scandal" of cut-price sales of surplus EEC butter to the Soviet Union, there is very little they can do to stop this trade, given the way the Community market works.

The only consolation for the EEC consumer is that this year the Russians will have to be content with older stocks of butter, some of which have been in storage for a year or more.

Normally it is the long-suffering EEC housewife on whom these less-than-fresh supplies, dressed-up as cut-price "Christmas butter", are palmed off, while the Soviet Union revivifies its butter from the Community market with the aid of handsome export subsidies paid for by the EEC taxpayer.

From the beginning of next month the Commission will operate a new system for controlling butter sales to the Soviet Union and East Europe. Every fortnight, traders will be asked to submit tenders for export of butter from the Community's stockpiles, and the Commission will accept the best offers.

Last week Mr Finn Olav Gundelach, the EEC Commissioner for Agriculture, indicated that over the year as a whole the Commission intended

to permit the sale of about 60,000 to 80,000 tonnes of butter to the Soviet Union under this tender system.

Mr Gundelach argued that exports of this order were "normal" and thus in line with the decision of EEC foreign ministers earlier this month to respect "traditional trade flows" with the Russians while not helping them to fill gaps left by American sanctions.

The Commission's figures are based on butter exports to the Soviet Union during the last three years. A longer reference period—favoured by Britain—would produce a much lower level of "normal" sales because there were virtually no exports in the three years up to 1977.

Under EEC rules, the level of exports judged appropriate by the Commission can only be challenged by a two-thirds majority of the votes held by member states. Since big countries have more votes than small, the Commission would only need two big countries on its side.

In fact, Britain is very much in a minority in the view it takes of butter sales to the Russians. Indeed any pressure on the Commission is likely to be in the direction of increasing sales beyond the figure mentioned by Mr Gundelach rather than the reverse.

7,000 pupils miss classes as teachers start strike

About 7,000 pupils missed classes in Avon yesterday as teachers began a three-day strike over education cuts, and in Nottingham more children were affected in a separate dispute over suspension of a school mistress.

As nine secondary schools in Avon, with a total roll of 14,000 were affected by the strike, the county's education committee chairman, Councillor Norman Reece, claimed that few members of the National Union of Teachers were involved in the strike.

He said: "The strike action is cracking at the seams. I think it is futile."

Mr Reece said in Bristol that his committee was criticized for making £4m education cuts this year, but if it had had the cuts the result next time would have been catastrophic.

"My estimate is that the cuts in 1980-81 would have had to be around £10m."

Mr Jack Evans, Avon NUT spokesman, said a strike was a protest over staffing and was supported by the 5,000 members

in Avon, although only a few were involved yesterday.

The stoppages are to be repeated over the next two weeks. In all, 30 secondary schools will be involved on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Pupils off yesterday were mainly in the first three years. Headmasters made alternative arrangements to ensure that senior pupils were given lessons.

Parents threatened to sue striking teachers for breach of contract at a rowdy meeting at Hartcliffe comprehensive school, Bristol.

Fifty teachers in the Nottingham area began a three-day strike in support of a nurse, missus, Mrs Eileen Crosbie, aged 36, suspended for refusing to teach a class of 40.

The stoppage closed St Albans infant school at Arnold, Nottingham, and severely affected another infant school, two primary schools and one secondary school.

Princess Anne may bid for part of airfield

From Our Correspondent
Gloucester

Princess Anne and Captain Mark Phillips will have a chance to buy an airfield when the Gloucester and Stroud Gloucestershire, which adjoins their Cotswolds Park Estate.

They are believed to be interested in bidding for part of Aston Down, near Stroud, Gloucestershire, which adjoins their Cotswolds Park Estate.

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Refusal of aid to disabled put to Ombudsman

By Our Political Staff

An investigation by the Ombudsman into the validity of a local authority decision to halt financial assistance for aids and adaptations in the homes of severely disabled people was requested yesterday by Mr Alfred Morris, Labour MP for Manchester, Wythenshawe, the former Labour Minister for the Disabled.

His call is based on correspondence which he received after his article in *The Times* of January 16 entitled "Where there's a will, there's a way". He was told of a family in Trafford who have a son, aged 14 suffering from muscular dystrophy who has become too heavy for his father to carry upstairs. The parents asked for a stair lift.

Mr Trafford social services department said: "It became necessary to call a halt to all

aids and adaptations to avoid overrunning the budget."

Mr Morris said that the provisions of the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act, 1970, had been abandoned.

In his letter to the Ombudsman, Mr Morris calls attention to a ruling given by a previous Ombudsman (Sir Idwal Pugh) in May, 1976, that "the Department of Health and Social Security received advice that a local authority could not plead lack of money as a reason for not meeting need."

Mr Morris has also sent to the Ombudsman a reply he received from Mr Reg Frenchie, Medical Secretary, about another case involving a disabled child in Trafford, where the cost of an adaptation was met by a charity. In this letter, Mr Morris claims, "the minister totally ignored the duty of principle and legal duty."

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'Soft strike' in support of Professor Küng

From Our Own Correspondent
Bonn, Jan 29

Roman Catholic theology students at Tübingen University today started a two-day "soft strike" in protest against the Vatican's decision to ban Professor Hans Küng from teaching.

The students said they would demand that instead of lectures, students and dons should discuss the ban. If they did not get their way within 40 minutes, they would walk out. They appear unlikely to meet much resistance because most of the staff support Dr Küng and his efforts to remain in the faculty.

Well dressed thieves

Paris, Jan 29.—Moments after the theft of clothes from a Paris shop police were able to arrest two men wearing the loot, 14 leather windcheaters, three jackets, one coat and six pairs of trousers.

Brussels, Jan 29.—A one-day strike for more pay by engine drivers halted half of Belgian train services today.

Italian terrorists kill sixth victim as fate of security Bill is still in balance

From Peter Nichols
Rome, Jan 29

Terrorists today claimed their sixth victim so far this year in the killing of Signor Silvio Gori, deputy technical director of the Montedison petrochemical plant at Mestre as he was leaving his home for work.

Witnesses say that three people shot him. A woman later telephoned a Venice newspaper and claimed responsibility. She said she was a member of the Red Brigades. The murdered man was 48, and married, with an 18-year-old daughter.

He had worked at the plant on the Venetian lagoon since 1975. There is little indication why he was chosen as his work was described as purely technical. All three main trade union federations jointly called for a strike and a demonstration of protest.

The other five victims so far were Signor Piersanti Mattarella, head of the Sicilian regional administration whose killers have still not been identified beyond doubt as political terrorists; three policemen and a carabinieri officer. Any army officer has been severely wounded and 18 policemen were injured in the

bombing of a Rome police station.

This latest killing has come in the wake of the Government's decision last night to make parliamentary approval of its anti-terrorist measures a question of confidence to end obstructionism in the Chamber of Deputies.

The small Radical Party which has 18 deputies has proposed 7,000 amendments to the measures. In the course of a free debate, all these would be introduced and explained by the party.

The measures are already in effect in the form of decrees but need parliamentary approval to become permanent. Without such approval they would lapse 60 days after having been introduced, a deadline which falls in mid-February. The action of the Radicals would certainly have taken the debate beyond that deadline.

Signor Francesco Cossiga, the Prime Minister, was faced with a difficult decision. The importance of Parliament in the face of obstructionism on this scale was already causing concern because of the falling prestige of parliament and the habit of legislating by

decree has also been under attack on the ground that it deprives Parliament of its right to initiate legislation and leaves it with the task only of approving retrospectively what the Government has decided to do.

The Radical Party's obstructionism combined with the Government's reaction in making the issue a matter of confidence means in effect that Parliament is unable to make what might be seen as improvements in the decrees.

There is also a certain risk for the Government. Some of the Socialists in these elections the Government depends for its parliamentary majority do not like the texts as they stand. At the same time the Socialist Party as a whole would certainly be aware of the risks hanging over the Government at a very delicate issue indeed.

The continued killing may be seen either as added evidence of the need for stronger measures or as an indication that the decrees so far have shown little efficacy. A successful outcome of the vote which will be taken later this week cannot wholly be taken for granted.

Nato awaits Warsaw Pact reply on offer to cut back troop numbers in Europe

From Frederick Bonnard
Brussels, Jan 29

Nato has put forward a package of measures to reach the deadlock. A phase 1 plan includes the proposed withdrawals to ground troops of the United States and the Soviet Union only (13,000 American and 30,000 Soviet soldiers), and does not include tanks or nuclear weapons.

Clearly, before an agreement is reached both sides must be satisfied that their figures are correct. There is some hope of this, as according to Nato sources the disagreement on figures is not over Soviet troops but those of other East European countries, in particular Poland.

The package also includes confidence-building measures such as agreements about notification of large troop movements and exercises, as well as the speed with which forces can be moved today, these are to extend to zones to the rear of the "guidelines area" on both sides, including that of the western Soviet Union.

However, this has already resulted in an initial negative reaction by the eastern side in informal discussion when they received the proposals, even though the associated verification procedures, which mean that stationing inspectors at airfields, railway stations, ports and other points of entry, as well as a specified number of

overflights by observer aircraft, do not include the territory of the Soviet Union.

The Western proposals were tabled on December 19, immediately after the Nato Council meeting which offered a range of arms control measures to the Warsaw Pact. The latter included negotiations on the Theatre Nuclear Forces, the 108 Pershing 2 ballistic missiles and the 464 ground launched cruise missiles, which Nato had then decided to station in Europe.

The proposals on nuclear weapons received confirmation from Brussels last Friday at a Nato Council meeting establishing a special consultative group on arms control to which the alliance declared, it remained firmly committed.

Diplomatic circles at Nato consider that, notwithstanding the deterioration in détente caused by the Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan, there was every intention of pressing on with arms control negotiations as these were of benefit not only to the West but to the world in general.

Whether the Soviet Union has a similar attitude will be seen by the reaction of the Warsaw Pact in Vienna on Thursday to the Western proposals. According to well-informed sources it is considered unlikely that they will be accepted at this stage.

Austria plans energy link with Comecon

From Sue Masterman
Vienna, Jan 29

Austria has completed negotiations with Russia to link the Comecon (Soviet block) electricity network with Austria's supply.

The link-up planned to become operative in 1985 is part of a larger scheme for the West to guarantee a basic electricity supply to the East, which will in turn provide extra energy for western peak periods. Switzerland, West Germany and Italy have shown a great deal of interest in such a scheme.

Agreements have already been signed with Yugoslavia which during the early spring thaw can export hydro-electric energy to Austria. In the early winter, the situation is reversed.

The first step in the project will be a new 750kW cable link between points in Hungary and Vienna.

During negotiations in Moscow earlier this month, the Soviet Union expressed interest in making Austria the central point for an exchange of natural gas between East and West. Austria at present imports natural gas from Russia.

The Russians and Austrians have a new pipeline system on the drawing board which would enable the capacity to be expanded to 40,000 million cubic metres.

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Man killed his wife during break from work, QC says

From Our Correspondent
Nottingham

Leslie James, a fitter, took half an hour off work "for personal reasons" and went home and murdered his wife, Mr Percy Grieve, QC, for the prosecution, said at Nottingham Crown Court yesterday.

Two workmen heard the killing taking place but did nothing about it, counsel added.

After suffocating his wife and stabbing her with a clasp knife he had borrowed from a workmate, Mr James, aged 36, returned to his job at an engineering works. At lunchtime he left work again and changed the lock on the back door of his wife's home in Norton Street, Grantham.

ship with Mr Nigel Duffield, who planned to live with her.

On Monday last year, two workmen heard loud screams and a heavy thud from Mrs James's house. "Unfortunately they dismissed it as unimportant and did nothing about it", counsel continued.

When interviewed Mr James said he had gone to visit his wife to discuss their children, Mark, aged 11, and Sarah, aged eight. He said he "just went mad" when his wife told him he would not be able to see the children again when she and Mr Duffield set up home together.

Mr James, of Hornsby Road, Grantham, has denied a charge of murder.

The trial continues today.

OVERSEAS

Angry Pravda attacks Carter speech as 'rude violation of recognized norms' of conduct

From Michael Binyon

Moscow, Jan 29

President Carter's State of the Union message was a challenge to the very essence of international law, a long and sharply-worded leading article in *Pravda* said today.

His message was a rude violation of generally recognized norms of international relations and an attempt to go back to the last century, when imperialism could carve up the map of the world with impunity.

Not since the peak of the Cold War had the "cult of brute force" been so openly professed, *Pravda* said, and it asked by what right the United States gave itself the role of supreme arbiter in questions of how people should build their lives.

Reflecting the views of the Kremlin leadership, the unsigned editorial in the Communist Party newspaper—the most authoritative and strongest comment yet on President Carter's speech—compared America's claim that there were areas of vital interest to America to claims made in the race for land in the old Wild West.

Tomorrow, *Pravda* said, Washington would "stake a claim" to other natural resources. And after that, it remarked sarcastically, it might go on to declare the atmosphere and the planet's oxygen as its own.

In proclaiming various areas of the globe as vital to American interests, the United States were aware of vital interest spheres directly to the borders of the Soviet Union.

Pravda accused the Carter Administration of fanning up a "hysterical militarist campaign" against the Russians, the military-political and economic measures being carried out or planned by the White House there clearly emerges the desire of the United States to intimidate the developing countries, to attempt to complicate their relations with the Soviet Union and other socialist countries, to

split the champions of peace, détente and progress and to dictate its conditions to them.

It said this "openly militarist and hegemonistic platform" of the American Administration had been condemned by sober-minded people all over the world. The course aimed, in effect, at a return to the policy of brinkmanship, and it was no coincidence that only the most bellicose circles in Nato and the Chinese leaders blinded in their rabid nationalism, supported the American President's threatening ideas.

Pravda accused Mr Carter of "absurd inventions" about the Soviet Union and in particular about Soviet policy towards Iran and Afghanistan. These inventions were used to substantiate Washington's bellicose programme, and cover up the fact that the present unprecedented programme of military action began at least three years ago.

"If there were no Afghanistan, they would certainly have found some other false pretext," *Pravda* claimed.

Mr Carter's State of the Union message was an awkward attempt to justify American policy towards Iran, which *Pravda* said had brought a quarter of a century of despotism and cost the Iranian people tens of thousands of lives.

But attempts to cast aspersions on Moscow's clear policy towards Iran were untenable. The Soviet Union, the article went on to say, was a peace-loving power, and regardless of political fluctuations in the world, as a border of peace and cooperation.

It is the United States and not the Soviet Union that has continued right up to the present day, to speak to Iran in the language of *Diktat*; it is the United States and not the Soviet Union that is most unscrupulously interfering in the internal affairs of that country.

Pravda repeated Soviet assertions that the Russians sent their troops to Afghanistan only to repel an external threat, and said they would be withdrawn when the threat had gone.

It said it was significant that in the President's message there was virtually no mention of disarmament. The entire course of the President's message and in his speech to Congress on January 23, showed that he intended to replace good-neighbourly relations between the Soviet Union and America by confrontation and the curtailment of cooperation.

The newspaper claimed that all this was being done to further the Carter's chances in the presidential election. It said that during his three years in office voters came to see that problems such as the economy, the energy crisis and inflation were not being solved.

So Mr Carter resorted to the age-old device of attempting to divert Americans' attention from obvious setbacks in domestic policy and a number of "serious failures" in foreign policy.

"For these purposes a militarist, chauvinistic psychosis is being stirred up in the United States. As the initiator of a new flare-up of jingoism, the White House is hoping to win the backing of the most reactionary circles."

"At the same time it is counting on neutralizing the other candidates from both bourgeois parties who in this situation will hardly be able to outdo the Administration, criticizing the present course of Washington's policy from right-wing positions, because it is impossible to go further to the right than that."

The tone of the *Pravda* leading article, covering the best part of a page of today's edition, is angry, impatient and reflects the personal antagonism towards President Carter which the Soviet leadership now feels.

At the same time the article is skillfully argued in many points, clearly aware of the currents of feeling and opinion within the United States, and points to the fact that Soviet policy towards Washington must now rely on the advice of a number of senior experienced officials in the field of Soviet-American relations.



Tribal people cross the no man's land between Afghanistan and Pakistan to carry on trade.

Moscow hopes upset by Muslim censure

From Michael Binyon

Moscow, Jan 29

The Russians today reacted to the Muslim world's condemnation of the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan by accusing the United States of twisting the arms of Muslim countries to divert their attention from the threats of Zionism and imperialism.

In a short despatch from Islamabad, Tass reported the Islamic conference decision to cast political and economic links with Egypt, but said nothing of the tough resolution on Afghanistan.

The news agency said the Americans, using rough tactics, were trying at whatever cost to "isolate Arab countries from their tested friends."

Mr Tass said, the earlier conference in Damascus of the foreign ministers of the Front for Steadfastness and Confrontation—those Arab countries foremost in rejecting the Camp David treaty—had demanded that the threat of military aggression by the United States against peoples of the Middle and Near East be put on the agenda of the Islamabad session.

The strong condemnation of the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan by the 32-nation conference, the Tass said, was a Soviet attempt to get the new Karmal regime in Afghanistan accepted by Muslims there and in other countries.

In many ways it is a more pointed and telling defeat for the Russians than the recent Soviet Union General Assembly vote on Afghanistan. Not only does it recommend the isolation of Afghanistan from its Muslim neighbours, but the resolution adds the politically important weight of the Muslim world to the growing movement in the West for a boycott of the Moscow Olympic Games.

The Russians denounced the Islamic conference before it began as an attempt to split the Muslim world and deny attention from the real issues: American pressure on Iran and Israel's occupation of Arab land.

For the past week, however, they were trying to head off

today's harsh resolution by emphasizing to their Arab allies that the new government in Afghanistan is deeply committed to respecting Islam and upholding the rights of Muslim clergy and believers.

Moscow was deeply unhappy at the convening of the Islamabad conference on Afghanistan, which Moscow probably knew was inevitable will complicate the already delicate Soviet relations with the Muslim world as well as give moral encouragement to the Afghan rebels.

The Russians have been careful not to condemn the participants in the conference itself, which include a number of countries having close ties with the Soviet Union.

Afghanistan, itself now suspended from membership of the Islamic conference, said in a Foreign Ministry statement three days ago that any debate of the so-called Afghan question constituted internal interference in the country's affairs.

The statement said Afghanistan's attendance would not accord with its people's interests or those of other Muslim countries, nor would it help maintain peace in the region.

"If this session takes decisions directed against the interests of the Afghan people, the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan will regard them as hostile and jeopardizing Islamic solidarity," the statement added, clearly anticipating the outcome.

At the same time over the weekend Mr Babrak Karmal, the Afghan leader, said in a broadcast that respect for Islamic solidarity was one of the aims of the revolution.

According to Tass, he said Islam had been seriously discriminated against under the pre-revolutionary regime, and said the new government would be free to engage in religious activity.

Mr Karmal guaranteed full freedom to all believers, Sunni or Shiite.

Iran accepts watered down Islamic protest

From Hasan Akhtar

Islamabad, Jan 29

Acrimonious exchanges between several leaders of delegations and Mr Kamel Kharrazi, Iran's deputy foreign minister, sharpened the final day's debate at the Islamic Foreign Ministers conference here today.

At a press conference later, Mr Agha Shahi, Pakistan foreign affairs adviser and chairman of the conference, conceded that vigorous exchanges had taken place during the debate behind closed doors on the Iranian resolution.

Several delegates, including Iraq, had held the Iranian Revolutionary Council responsible for creating the crisis in relations with the United States.

The resolution eventually passed expressed the hope that Iran and the United States resolve their outstanding problems by peaceful means.

Much diluted, it avoided criticising the United States for threatening to use force against Iran. Mr Shahi said it was the result of a consensus of opinion reached after hectic consultations aimed at persuading Iran to accept it.

Iran had rejected the suggestion that the Secretary-General of the conference might extend his good offices towards finding a settlement on the hostages dispute.

Mr Shahi said that while Afghanistan stood suspended as a member of the conference, Pakistan and other countries were expected to break diplomatic relations with Kabul soon.

In pursuance of the foreign ministers' resolution, they would refuse recognition to Mr Babrak Karmal's government.

The call to join a holy war with the Afghan insurgents against the Kabul regime was withdrawn from the final resolution, as adopted by the foreign ministers as it was thought it would be misconstrued as armed assistance by Muslim countries to the insurgents.

Mr Shahi told reporters, Mr Habib Chahri, the conference secretary-general, however, indicated that the Islamic

conference would extend support to the insurgents.

Significantly, the resolution on Iran did not condemn the United States by name, which astonished most of the observers here.

While Pakistan had managed to get adopted possibly the strongest resolution at any world forum, condemning the Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan and proposing 11 specific sanctions against the Kabul regime, Iran remained content with the passage of a resolution which keenly avoided naming the Americans as aggressors.

In television and radio interviews, Mr Kharrazi had displayed a more militant temper. There were suggestions in the conference lobbies that the Iranians accepted the watered-down resolution in the hope that the Islamic states would back them to the hilt in the negotiations with the United States.

The resolution reaffirmed the rights of all states to exercise permanent, total and effective sovereignty over their natural and other resources and over the control of their economic assets and activities.

It declared the member states' solidarity with the Muslim people of Iran in choosing whatever system they preferred based on the tenets of Islam as a system of social and political life.

The resolution further declared its firm opposition to any threat to use force, or any kind of intimidation or interference or imposition of economic sanctions against Iran or any other Islamic country.

From Pakistan's point of view, the resolution on Afghanistan seems to have met all Islamic expectations and should help it pave the way towards a switch in foreign policy so that massive military and economic assistance from the West and other friendly sources can be accepted.

This would make the United States, relations with which were at such a low ebb that the American Embassy was reduced to ashes by frenzied mobs last year, a close ally.

Pundits are forecasting defeat for Mr Kennedy

From Patrick Brogan

Washington, Jan 29

The pundits here have already decided what is going to happen to Senator Edward Kennedy. When he "re-affirmed" his candidacy for the Presidency yesterday he did so in the ringing tones of a convinced liberal. He made no mention of the need to balance the budget or to provide a defence "second to none".

He called Mr Carter a Republican President, and claimed to represent, alone, the traditional liberal causes of Franklin Roosevelt and John F. Kennedy. The pundits think that he is doomed to defeat, anyway, and has decided to go down with his own colours nailed firmly to the mast, not Jimmy Carter's second best set.

He will be defeated, they say, in the Maine Caucuses on February 10 and the New Hampshire primary on February 23. Then he will bow gracefully out of the race, return to the Senate—and there hold himself in readiness to accept a call to serve next summer if Mr Carter makes a complete hash of it.

If Mr Carter survives, and whether he is re-elected or not, Senator Kennedy would then be well placed to win the nomination in 1984. The same pundits are inclined to conclude that Mr Kennedy never wanted to run anyway, and is secretly relieved to have that cup taken from him.

They may very well be right. Pundits do not always get it wrong, though it is worth remembering that there was a splendid unanimity of view here last summer.

Mr Carter was then given no chance at all of winning the election, and precious little of beating Mr Kennedy for the nomination. The pundits then persuaded him to consent to take over the party from the President (it was guaranteed to be a walk-over) and he took the plunge last November 7.

If the pundits are wrong again, and Mr Kennedy's chances revive, it will be because of external events, and the President's ineptitude—though doubtless help.

The crises in Iran and Afghanistan, which saved Mr Carter between November and January, may now work against him.

Last Autumn, before the seizure of the embassy in Tehran, Mr Carter tried out his re-election speech and he boasted that no American soldier had been killed abroad under his Presidency.

Peace was the President of the hour, and he has turned full circle since then, and is rattling every sabre he can reach and has enjoyed a great burst of popularity.

If things go wrong, or even if the Iran crisis is settled in a messy, and unglamorous way, the President's popularity may decline again as precipitously as it has risen.

It has happened before, most recently last summer when his popularity rose dramatically after he made a speech, confessing his faults, and collapsed immediately afterwards when he sacked half his Government.

The votes in Maine and New Hampshire are almost upon us, and the White House hopes that they can polish off Senator Kennedy then, before the crises turn sour.

The Kennedy campaign is running very short of money, its members are dispirited and Mr Kennedy has put on a very poor performance.

Congress warned of Soviet might

From David Cross

Washington, Jan 29

The Defence Secretary, Brown, said today that the United States may be at a "critical turning point" in history and must meet it by deciding to remain "the strongest nation in the world."

"The alternative is to let ourselves slip into inferiority, into a position of weakness in a world where principles unsupported by power are victimized, and to become a nation with more of a past than a future. I reject that alternative, and I know that the Congress does as well," he added.

Mr Brown was justifying President Carter's decision to seek a 5.4 per cent real increase in defence spending next year as outlined in the budget published here yesterday for the 1981 financial year.

He released a bulky 329-page report on the Administration's plans for military spending when he appeared on Capitol Hill to testify on the defence budget before the armed services committee of the House of Representatives.

As might be expected, when a Defence Secretary has to defend an abnormally high increase in spending at a time of financial austerity, Mr Brown painted a particularly bleak picture of the country's defences.

Although, during the past decade, the United States never

acquired all the readiness and mobility it needed, it was not prepared for the kind of threat that we are now facing. We can no longer be relatively sluggish and the country was not put to the test by challenges outside South-East Asia, he said.

"But now times are changing. Without reducing the large forces stationed in Eastern Europe, the Soviets have tripled the size of their forces in the Far East, and they are developing naval and other capabilities that will permit them to operate well beyond the periphery of the USSR."

"Their posture, overall, has grown more modern and parts of it have reached a high state of combat readiness. We can no longer preclude their being able to operate simultaneously in several different parts of the world," he declared.

These developments, combined with a number of internal and international disputes in areas of great interest to the United States, were beginning to put heavy pressure on America's non-nuclear defences, he concluded.

On the tactical nuclear front, too, even with existing United States programmes, "we will not have overcome all our nuclear problems," Mr Brown said. That why NATO was proceeding with the development of two land-based, longer-range mobile missiles—the Pershing 2 and ground-launched cruise missiles.

In the strategic sector, how-

ever, the situation was much brighter. "There can be no doubt," Mr Brown said, "that these (strategic nuclear) capabilities still provide the foundation on which our security rests. Without them the Soviet Union could threaten the extinction of the United States and its allies."

In this context, the Defence Secretary made it clear that the Administration still supports the new strategic arms limitation agreement with the Soviet Union—Salt 2. "It serves our national security interests even more so when the Soviets are aggressive—but the timing of its ratification must defer to the urgent need that we assess and respond to Soviet actions in Afghanistan."

To signal his Administration's steadfast support for Pakistan's security, President Carter is sending his chief security adviser to Islamabad to discuss American aid plans.

Well informed officials in Washington said today that Mr Zbigniew Brzezinski, would head a delegation of senior officials going to Pakistan later this week.

Mr Brzezinski's main task will be to work out details of a military and economic aid package totalling some \$400m (£180m) over the next two years. He is likely to come under some pressure to improve this offer from President Zia ul-Haq of Pakistan who has dismissed \$400m as "peanuts".

Smuggled letter says lost Afghans held in Russia

From Robert Fisk

Kabul, Jan 29

Evidence has reached Kabul that several hundred Afghan political prisoners are being held inside the Soviet Union. Information about the prisoners, whose families believed them dead, is contained in a letter smuggled out of Russia by an Afghan prisoner arrested after the revolution here in 1978.

The mole, whose family name is Waez, wrote secretly to his family to tell them that he and hundreds of other Afghans were being held in Russia, working in a steel mill in Tula, 140 miles south of Moscow.

He smuggled his letter out with the help of a Soviet worker and an Afghan student from Moscow University who travelled by air to Kabul.

Ever since the new Government of Mr Babrak Karmal began freeing political prisoners from Kabul jails three weeks ago, thousands of refugees—whose relatives waited in vain to greet them outside the Polechowskri prison in Kabul earlier this month—were still locked up in the capital or in the provincial cities of Kandahar or Mazar-i Sharif.

Hundreds were undoubtedly murdered under the regime of Mr Hafizullah Amin, who was killed in the Soviet-supported coup on December 27.

The fate of the others, however, remained unknown. Afghan Government officials had hinted two weeks ago that foreign journalists would be taken to see mass graves where Amin's secret police had thrown the bodies of political prisoners, but no such macabre visit materialized.

But the letter from Mr Waez, who was assumed to have been

killed by the Afghan secret police in the autumn of 1978, raises new questions about the whereabouts of at least some of the missing prisoners. According to his letter, he and other Afghans were referred to the Soviet Union as "state prisoners" although all were arrested in Afghanistan.

More intriguing, perhaps, is that the extremists who killed Mr Waez, a Shiite, were the United States Ambassador in Kabul, last year, allegedly demanded the release of Mr Waez's freedom.

At the time, the Afghan Government said it had no knowledge of the minority Shiite sect in Afghanistan but Mr Waez was known even among Sunni Muslims for his preaching in rural villages.

Many Shiites were victims of Amin's purges and some are still popularly believed to be imprisoned in Polechowskri. When mobs broke into the jail two weeks ago, they found hundreds of men still held there but the Government claimed these were common criminals.

What interest the Soviet Union would have in holding Afghan political prisoners is a mystery. It is possible that the Russians—in an attempt to prevent the wholesale butchery of prisoners by a regime which the Soviet Union openly supported—offered to keep the inmates temporarily, but that their imprisonment in Russia then became too embarrassing to reveal.

It is also just possible that the Russians would spare the lives of political prisoners who might one day be returned to Afghanistan.

In any event, those who knew Mr Waez in Afghanistan are convinced his letter is genuine.

Senate votes to abandon Moscow games

From Our Own Correspondent

Washington, Jan 29

Full Congressional approval for an American boycott of the Olympic Games in Moscow was assured today when the Senate, after a relatively short debate, overwhelmingly approved a resolution backing President Carter's request that the United States refuse to send a team, postpone or cancellation of the games.

If any of these courses failed to materialize and the Olympics went ahead in Moscow, American athletes should boycott them, the resolution said. Boycott rejected: Cyprus will take part in the Moscow Olympics.

The Norwegian Olympic Committee has voted unanimously to boycott the games unless there is "a change in a favourable direction" in Afghanistan.

Mr Moshe Brilliant, Tel Aviv, Jan 29

Israel today refused to accept Egypt's proposals for Palestinian autonomy in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. It said the Egyptian model scheme was "disqualified".

Mr Haim Kibersky, head of an Israel working group negotiating autonomy, told Mr Ezzat Abdul Latif, his Egyptian counterpart, that Cairo's proposals were a model for sovereignty and not autonomy.

The Egyptians had earlier dismissed Israel's model as "totally unacceptable".

Mr Sol Lissowsky, President Carter's special envoy to the talks, arrived this evening from Cairo and said in an airport interview that progress had been made in the negotiations. "All of us are now for the first time focusing attention on the substantive issues", he said.

Tribesmen mistook German drivers for Russians

From Ian Murray

Kabul, Jan 29

Two West German lorry drivers walked into Jalalabad with blistered feet on Sunday morning after having been kept prisoner by bandit tribesmen for a week.

Only then did they discover that a third driver, an Austrian, had been shot dead shortly after the ambush in which they were all taken prisoner.

Their ordeal had begun in the evening of January 20, as they headed their two huge lorries into the Kabul gorge. It was five o'clock and Herr Wolfgang Hartyl, the owner of the lorries, and Herr Wolfgang Meier, the driver, were enough daylight left to see safely through the mountains to Kabul.

But shortly after passing an Afghan Army motorized patrol heading in the opposite direction, the two West German lorries came round the bend to find the road blocked by huge boulders which had been rolled down the mountainside.

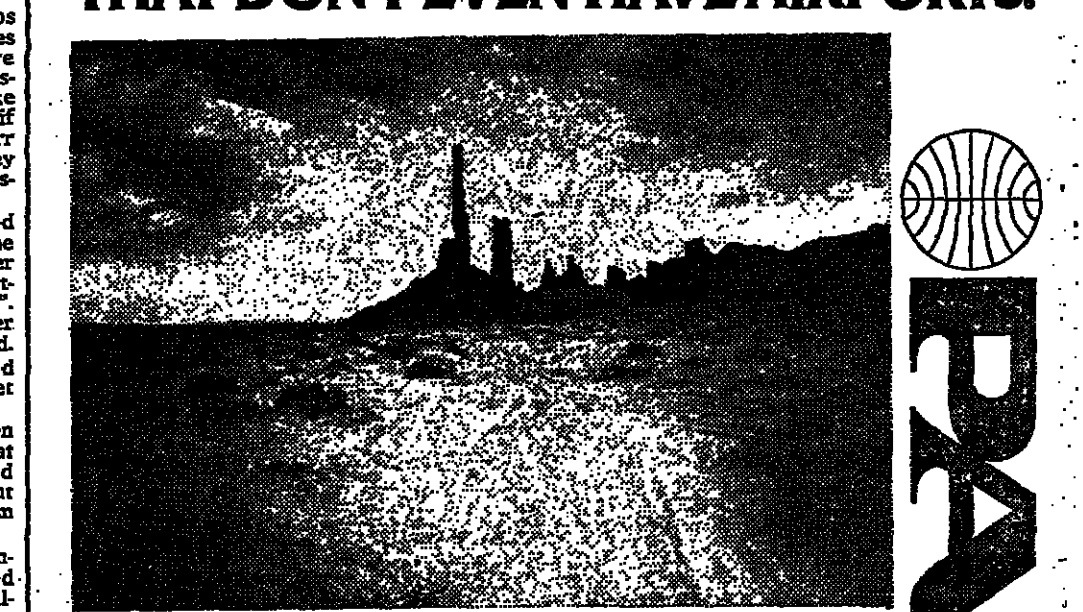
They jumped out of their cabs to hide under their vehicles and within minutes they were surrounded by shouting tribesmen. Only one of them spoke any English and he asked the German drivers if they were Russians. Herr Hartyl told them that they were Germans but the tribesmen refused to believe them.

They were beaten up and ordered to march into the mountains. The third driver refused to go and started shouting "not in the mountains". Herr Hartyl and his co-driver decided to do as they were told.

The third driver was found two days later with a bullet through his head. It took day for the two men to convince their captors that they were not Russians and after that their treatment changed. They were taken from village to village.

The rebel band was comprised of about 20 men, and each evening they left the villages and disappeared into the mountains. They eventually let the driver go last Saturday.

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OVERSEAS

Angry accusations of unfair practices swopped in Salisbury

From Nicholas Ashford
Salisbury, Jan 29

There were sharp words and short tempers in Salisbury today as leaders of different political parties pointed accusing fingers at each other and alleged all kinds of unfair electoral practices.

At a press conference former senior officials of the Zanu (PF) party accused their erstwhile leader, Mr Robert Mugabe, of being cruel and dishonest and of suffering from an "inordinate lust for power." The accusation was made by Mr Eugene Gumbo, former information secretary of Zanu (PF), who was speaking on behalf of 64 dissident members of the party who were released from detention in Mozambique yesterday.

At another press conference in the afternoon, an exceedingly irate Bishop Abel Muzorewa, leader of the United African National Council (UANC), complained that he felt like a prisoner who had "entered a business arrangement with crooks as partners in the Lancaster House ceasefire agreement."

He lashed out at Mr Rajeshwar Dayal, the Indian Chairman of the Commonwealth observer group, whom he accused of being "cancerously biased" because he had raised the question of alleged violations of the ceasefire by the security force auxiliaries (Furto Revolvers) but not by Mr Mugabe's Zulu guerrillas. "He has made a mockery of the Commonwealth observers," he declared.

Cries of "foul" also flew around a meeting of the Electoral Commission today with party representatives accusing their opponents of intimidatory practices. The cries were loudest from the smaller parties which complained to Sir John Boynton, the Electoral Commissioner, that they, unlike Zanu (PF), the UANC or the Patriotic Front, did not have the same access to their own with which to influence voters.

Lord Soames, the Governor, has publicly admitted that it would be impossible to hold an election in southern Rhodesia, in any other African country, which was completely free from intimidation. However, British

sources have pointed out that many of the accusations of coercion made so far have been of a general rather than a specific nature.

Meanwhile, the ceasefire communique which showed that Zanu has been responsible for most breaches of the ceasefire since the truce came into effect on January 4. The commission includes commanders from Zanu and Mr Joshua Nkomo's Zipra as well as the Rhodesian security forces and the Commonwealth monitoring force that ruled that of the 78 confirmed breaches of the ceasefire, 34 were by Zanu and another 20 took place in Zanu's area of operation. By contrast Zipra was found guilty of only eight breaches while another two took place in its area of operation in the west of the country. The security force auxiliaries were held responsible for only one breach.

The attack on Mr Mugabe by the Zanu (PF) dissidents was one of the strongest heard since the election campaign got under way. This is perhaps not surprising as his critics had spent two to three years in detention in Mozambique, much of it in appalling conditions.

Mr Gumbo, who was flanked by Mr Henry Hamandiripi, Mr Mukundzi Munda, Mr Chipen Mawandira and other prominent black nationalists, accused Mr Mugabe of being totally opposed to national unity and blamed him for the divisions that now exist within the party. The men did not say which of the nine black parties taking part in the election they would join. They said that they would consult all democratic forces in the country to establish a "framework for harmonizing national and local interests."

Mr Gumbo said: "We want to find a formula for unity." Unity, it seemed, was the last thing Bishop Muzorewa had on his mind. Having just returned from a five-day tour of the country, he had been on the right and left accusing the monitoring force of standing by while guerrillas went to and from assembly areas with impunity and adding a warning that he would ignore the verities of the commonwealth observers.



Freed detainees who criticized Mr Robert Mugabe in Salisbury yesterday.

Bishop Muzorewa said that despite all the intimidation which he had come across during his visit to Manicaland he was still confident he would win the election. However, latest assessments by observers—which are admittedly only rough guesses—put the UANC in third place behind Zanu (PF), which is thought to be in front, and Mr Nkomo's Patriotic Front (formerly Zapu).

Britain detained: Zambia has issued a 29-day detention order on a British citizen who crossed the border from Rhodesia with ammunition in his car and on his passenger, a young Australian hitchhiker. A British diplomat said in Lusaka today.

The car owner was named as Mr Brian Stanley, who is in his late 20s and works as a motor mechanic at the boat centre on Lake Kariba. He has lived in Rhodesia for more than three years, according to the diplomat.

His passenger was Mr Jeffrey Holden, aged 20, a tourist who had hitched a ride with Mr Stanley before the border crossing.

British consular officials have talked to Mr Stanley and told his wife of his plight. An Australian consular officer, based in Dar es Salaam but accredited to Zambia, has visited Mr Holden.

Many white Rhodesians have become accustomed to carrying weapons as a deterrent on car journeys during the guerrilla war, particularly around Kariba, a favoured infiltration area for Zambia-based guerrillas.

las of Mr Nkomo's wing of the Patriotic Front.

Diplomatic sources said the Rhodesian authorities appeared not to have decided what to do with the two men. Even if it was accepted that they were not spies or saboteurs, they could still be put on trial for the illegal possession of ammunition.

A British-born Rhodesian Air Force pilot, Mr Michael Borlace, was arrested in Zambia last April and is awaiting trial on suspicion of spying for Rhodesia. Three white airline pilots were held for several months in Zambian jails.

Although Britain has assumed responsibility for Rhodesia, Zambia remains in an official state of emergency and the call-up of reservists and national servicemen ordered in November is still in force.—Reuter.

Appointments Vacant

DEAL WITH PEOPLE

VICTORIA/CROYDON to £5,500
We are a leading technical staff agency specialising in personnel recruitment for the civil, construction and petro-chemical industries. We need several energetic people (20-40) with a sales or technical background to join our head office at Victoria and new offices at Croydon. If you are self-motivated and would enjoy a challenging position dealing with people, we would like to meet you. We are the technical staff division of a national employment agency group and can offer varied and interesting work, secure, progressive career with high status, excellent company pension scheme, etc. For further details please contact 01-588 1081. MONTROSE TECHNICAL STAFF, 62-64 MOORATE, LONDON, E22

GENERAL VACANCIES

NALGO

SEEKS TWO ASSISTANT ORGANISING OFFICERS

For its Headquarters' Electricity and University/Non Towns Sections. The post-holders will assist the respective National Officers on service conditions work on behalf of members employed in these sections. Duties include work relating to national employment bodies, grievance reports, correspondence, attendance at meetings, preparing agenda and minutes. Experience in trade union activity is essential and a knowledge of the respective services would be advantageous. Salary range is £7,725-£8,457 per annum, and the post is open to women.

Application forms and further details from the General Secretary, NALGO, 1 Mableton Place, London WC1H 9AJ. Closing date for receipt of completed applications is 12th February 1980.

RESIDENTIAL NEGOTIATOR

MARSH & PARSONS, Chartered Surveyors and Estate Agents, require an experienced residential negotiator (25-35 years preferred) for their busy London office. Ring Miss White on 937 9622.

ACCOUNTANT/ADMINISTRATOR

required by international management for classical, multi-national, business, industrial, financial and administrative work. A good salary will be paid. A good opportunity for a person with a degree in accountancy or business administration. Ring Miss White on 937 9622.

JOBS IN THE ALPS (Exp. Agency) - Boys (18-25) - Swiss Alps - 10 weeks - 1980 - 1981 - 1982 - 1983 - 1984 - 1985 - 1986 - 1987 - 1988 - 1989 - 1990 - 1991 - 1992 - 1993 - 1994 - 1995 - 1996 - 1997 - 1998 - 1999 - 2000 - 2001 - 2002 - 2003 - 2004 - 2005 - 2006 - 2007 - 2008 - 2009 - 2010 - 2011 - 2012 - 2013 - 2014 - 2015 - 2016 - 2017 - 2018 - 2019 - 2020 - 2021 - 2022 - 2023 - 2024 - 2025 - 2026 - 2027 - 2028 - 2029 - 2030 - 2031 - 2032 - 2033 - 2034 - 2035 - 2036 - 2037 - 2038 - 2039 - 2040 - 2041 - 2042 - 2043 - 2044 - 2045 - 2046 - 2047 - 2048 - 2049 - 2050 - 2051 - 2052 - 2053 - 2054 - 2055 - 2056 - 2057 - 2058 - 2059 - 2060 - 2061 - 2062 - 2063 - 2064 - 2065 - 2066 - 2067 - 2068 - 2069 - 2070 - 2071 - 2072 - 2073 - 2074 - 2075 - 2076 - 2077 - 2078 - 2079 - 2080 - 2081 - 2082 - 2083 - 2084 - 2085 - 2086 - 2087 - 2088 - 2089 - 2090 - 2091 - 2092 - 2093 - 2094 - 2095 - 2096 - 2097 - 2098 - 2099 - 2100 - 2101 - 2102 - 2103 - 2104 - 2105 - 2106 - 2107 - 2108 - 2109 - 2110 - 2111 - 2112 - 2113 - 2114 - 2115 - 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ENTERTAINMENTS

S should state at price to students but before performance

When telephoning see price of only outside London Metropolitan Area.

OPERA AND BALLET

COVENT GARDEN 01-240 1000
THE ROYAL OPERA
 Tonight: *Die Fledermaus*.
 Tomorrow: *Die Fledermaus*.
 Tuesday: *Die Fledermaus*.
 Wednesday: *Die Fledermaus*.
 Thursday: *Die Fledermaus*.
 Friday: *Die Fledermaus*.
 Saturday: *Die Fledermaus*.
 Sunday: *Die Fledermaus*.

THEATRES

LYRIC 01-240 1000
ALADDIN
 Tonight: *Aladdin*.
 Tomorrow: *Aladdin*.
 Tuesday: *Aladdin*.
 Wednesday: *Aladdin*.
 Thursday: *Aladdin*.
 Friday: *Aladdin*.
 Saturday: *Aladdin*.
 Sunday: *Aladdin*.

CONCERTS

ROSLYN HILL CHAPEL N.W.
 Tonight: *Concert*.
 Tomorrow: *Concert*.
 Tuesday: *Concert*.
 Wednesday: *Concert*.
 Thursday: *Concert*.
 Friday: *Concert*.
 Saturday: *Concert*.
 Sunday: *Concert*.

THEATRES

ADOLPH 01-240 1000
MY FAIR LADY
 Tonight: *My Fair Lady*.
 Tomorrow: *My Fair Lady*.
 Tuesday: *My Fair Lady*.
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THE ARTS

Working a rich seam

"I like everything that is positive in art, whether it is expressed through abstract or figurative art," said Joseph Herman, puffing on a pipe in the studio of his home in a gentrified West Kensington.

By positive I mean with ideas that are clearly and simply stated, and original."

Herman, now 69, is the subject of a major retrospective exhibition at the Camden Arts Centre, in Arkwright Road, NW2, which runs until March 2. He is not one of the older generation who finds himself out of sympathy with what has been going on in the art world.

But he does feel that the last decade has produced nothing of staggering importance compared with the outburst of creative genius in this century's first three.

The main contribution of the twentieth century lies in modern figurative art and in abstract art," he said. "All the rest is minor happenings."

Modern figurative art means for him painters like Picasso, Rouault and Nolde; abstract art means above all Kandinsky and Mondrian, whose work was simply enlarged on later by the American abstract expressionists. Of these he finds Rothko and Barnett Newman to be spiritually the most original.

"Up to the twentieth century there was really no language for the artist of metaphysical temperament. Kandinsky and Mondrian produced it for them, and I think it will go on."

Although his own work is wholly figurative, he feels British abstract painting has been more consistent in the latter than figurative, but the painter has achieved higher peaks.

There have been two big decisions in Herman's artistic life. The first was when, on leaving his native Poland in late 1937, he decided to go not to Paris, the mecca of most Polish artists (with Bonnard their chief prophet), but to Brussels. Long an admirer of Bruegel, he had been attracted by the work of the Flemish expressionists and also by that of Munch.

In Brussels he met Constant Permeke, whose personality and achievements made a big impact on him. For Herman, Permeke stood in the great tradition of Courbet, Daumier, Millet, Cézanne and Van Gogh, who—as he sees it—left European art an immense heritage by bringing the working man into the language of painting.

"That is more or less the tradition I have followed," he says.

The second decision came in 1944, when he went to live in the Welsh mining village of Ystradgynlais. He and his wife went to visit it on the recommendation of a friend, Cady Stradgynlais, who really played together all his ideas: aesthetic, stylistic and of man as a working creature," he recalls.

Herman was not particularly interested in mining as such. He was drawn rather by the symbolic quality of the miner's existence. Like Van Gogh in Flanders, he was deeply moved by the grandeur of certain images of miners walking over a



Photograph by Harry Kerr

bridge against the sun, of a mother wrapping a baby in a shawl, and sought to synthesize in a single image the theme of labour in man's evolution.

Most of the workers he has drawn and painted have not actually been working, he pointed out. "Mostly they are either in their own setting, or they are by a road, or something like that. They are being rather than doing. Herman is far from believing that all physical labour is ennobling. But he does feel we may come to regret that we are no longer doing certain things with our hands, because the computer has taken over."

Apart from the fact that he can see no formal bigness in middle-class man, Herman's own working class is wholly working class. His father was an illiterate Jewish cobbler, living in the poorest part of Warsaw. Josef left school at 13, eventually becoming first a typesetter and then a graphic designer, work which he tried to combine with painting.

He had his first exhibition, mainly of expressionist watercolours of Warsaw's industrial suburbs, in 1932. Six years later, deciding he could no longer, he left for Brussels, spending two years there before escaping from the German advance via France to Scotland. In Glasgow, where he stayed three years, he teamed up with his compatriot, the painter Jankel Adler, and with the Scottish painter J. D. Ferguson before his first London

exhibition—shared with L. S. Lowry at Reid and Lefevre—lured him to the capital in 1943.

And there, after the years in Wales, a long spell in Suffolk and some little travelling, he now lives with his second wife, a psychoanalyst, their adopted daughter (their son is studying in America) and Herman's outstanding collection of almost 600 African carvings from some 120 tribes. Unusually, these are mostly miniatures, and have been the subject of a book by William Fagg, former keeper of the Department of Ethnography at the British Museum.

For all the sombre serenity of his work, it has been a fairly turbulent life, and beneath the polypoly bonhomie of the man there is a streak of melancholy. Now, he says, he is trying to sum up the years of striving. His palette has become more vivid, and the mood is less heavy.

The desire, which he admitted in those Flemish expressionists, to combine the best quality of painting with modern ideas, remains. Combined with the individual quality of his work and its basic affirmation of certain human values, that craftsmanship perhaps helps explain a slightly surprising feature of his exhibitions: they have over the years virtually all more or less sold out—and mainly to British collectors at that.

Roger Berthoud

Postnikova excels in Mussorgsky

Victoria Postnikova
St John's

Joan Chissell

Victoria Postnikova began her St John's Monday midday series with a sonata in C by Dmitri Borislavsky, a work probably as unfamiliar to most of us as his operas and church music. Since he was born just four years before Mozart, it was perhaps surprising that the sonata was one of which the youthful Mozart himself could have been proud, even if Haydn by this time might have lamented its lack of surprise. The central Adagio can be compared with its charming touch of pathos as major melodic minor in the opening phrase, haunted by memory longer than the faster flanking movements. Miss Postnikova's delicately sympathetic performance was contained within an eighteenth-century dynamic

outline, meaning being sacrificed to immediate pianistic effect. The Trio of the Scherzo was exquisitely graduated (as was that of the Funeral March which came next), but the main body of the movement was at some points frankly ugly.

Quite different, though, was the sonata in F minor by Chopin, which Postnikova's interpretation of this ghostly perpetuum mobile is not without precedent, yet her performance was most imaginative, sounding faint and far, magically insubstantial.

The second half began with Chopin's greatest nocturne which he chose to title Barcarolle. This, too, received a performance that might be called understated, understated, full of subtle and quite unexpected nuances.

Another piece that is a nocturne in all but name followed, the Berceuse on 57, a late work like the Barcarolle. This, also, found Mr Barenboim at his best.

Daniel Barenboim Festival Hall

Max Harrison

There were some excellent things in the performance of the Fantasia in F minor with which Daniel Barenboim opened his Chopin recital on Monday. Foremost among them was a beautifully cultivated tone, which also was evident in the accurate but not too dominant the fantasy's more rhetorical passages, and this piece was conceived too much in fragments rather than as an organic whole. Individual parts may have been exciting or moving, but they did not add up.

There were again fine moments in the Sonata on 35, especially in the development section of the first movement, where there was no clear structural

much of the invention I have praised before, though the content is flushed up with at least 20 minutes of uncharacteristic sloppiness.

Perhaps the announced theme of a day in the life of an American office worker is too confining, but it is a moment of time, including his trade mark, a bent-over walk which reflects Groucho Marx's most exaggerated stalling technique, and he fills the day with fantastic elements that grow out of such mundane actions as a lunch break, but there are too many diversions which merely fill the time.

It is the artist elements which show his distinctive talent, including a cut-out of a deer head, a cut-out of a lover. The alienation of his English, repeating a litany of words such as "honey" and "baby" to the strange object of his affection, points up the impoverishment of much love making in the modern world. Observation that is occasionally lacking. He has, however, the advantage of charm throughout.

Chopelia Cockpit

Ned Chaillet

West End panic about declining audiences has not stretched into the more adventurous areas that are still ridiculously called the fringe. London's International Mime Festival is drawing queues for some obscure performers in even more obscure venues.

Fried Chopel's sellout appearance at the Cockpit marks the first time the Algerian clown has left Paris to perform in London. I first saw him in Hamburg's street theatre festival, where he captured the perambulating audiences with a combination of highly disciplined mime and flexible vocal tricks that were comically tied to the spoken clichés of the American tourist.

His talent and imagination are very real and Chopelia shows

London debuts

The début of the French pianist Philippe Chatrier, known in London as a pianist, had not appeared here as a conductor until his concert with the London Schools Symphony Orchestra—he is to return to the Festival Hall with the RPO in February. As Giulini's assistant in Los Angeles since 1978 he of course came with experience, and the gestures to transmit his wishes. In Wagner's *Rienzi* overture a pliantly expressive bear coaxed increasingly full sonority from his young players, and in Tchaikovsky's second symphony they were caught up and carried along in his buoyant rhythm—never mind a few strained sounds in the testing Scherzo, a kind of trial run for the March in the *Pavane*. Bloch's *Scherzo*, with his sister, Myung-Whun Chung as soloist, was harder to co-ordinate, colour and intensity with players so young, but its climaxes were never skimpy.

Joan Chissell

Myung-Whun Chung, already known in London as a pianist, had not appeared here as a conductor until his concert with the London Schools Symphony Orchestra—he is to return to the Festival Hall with the RPO in February. As Giulini's assistant in Los Angeles since 1978 he of course came with experience, and the gestures to transmit his wishes. In Wagner's *Rienzi* overture a pliantly expressive bear coaxed increasingly full sonority from his young players, and in Tchaikovsky's second symphony they were caught up and carried along in his buoyant rhythm—never mind a few strained sounds in the testing Scherzo, a kind of trial run for the March in the *Pavane*. Bloch's *Scherzo*, with his sister, Myung-Whun Chung as soloist, was harder to co-ordinate, colour and intensity with players so young, but its climaxes were never skimpy.

There were two sopranos. Though Elizabeth Brice, currently studying at the London Opera School, included an opera performance in her repertoire, she left no doubt that she has a voice of substance, with musical intelligence and sympathy to go with it. Even in the English *Exposition* and Britten's "The Poet's Echo", her diction left something to be desired, nor did she sufficiently colour individual words, or enjoy basic vowel contrasts enough just for their own sake—until four songs by Wolf-Ferrari, which she sang from the heart with the loveliest tone of the evening. If some measure of spontaneous gaiety was missing from Rossini's "La Représentation de la Représentation", she closely identified herself with Schumann's Four Mignon Lieder. After a somewhat laboured-sounding start, Philipp Thomas at the piano thawed into a helpful

partner.

Catherine Bott returned to the Purcell Room (her official début was during the suspension of the Times with a programme of old Italian music including Caccini and Monteverdi, with Handel's dramatic cantata *Lucrezia*, written in Florence, as her most recent and certainly her most formidable undertaking. Adroitly accompanied by David Roblou at the harpsichord or organ, often with Anthony Pleeth's continuo, she cultivated a vibrato-less, instrumental-like, period-aspiring tone, sometimes questionable raw, and a little off-pitch, though as the voice loosened it warmed, besides showing itself capable of strong projection and remarkable agility in virtuosos ornamentation. Handel's spiteful fury and despair were attenuated at very high voltage.

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New scholarship for pianists

The Julius Isserlis Scholarship, established in memory of the Russian pianist who died in 1968 and administered by the Royal Philharmonic Society, will be competed for, for the first time, next June. The award, which is worth about £5,000 a year, will on this occasion go to a pianist aged between 15 and 20 and normally resident in the United Kingdom, enabling him or her to study abroad for two years.

Joan Chissell

Panufnik's Homage set to dance

David Bintley's new plotless ballet for Sadler's Wells Royal Ballet, *Homage to Chopin*, has its first performance at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon, on February 15, and its first London performance at Sadler's Wells Theatre on February 22. The ballet, which uses music by Andrzej Panufnik of the same name, has been designed by John Backler, who has collaborated with Bintley on all his previous ballets.

Offenbach's centenary celebrated

The centenary of the death of Jacques Offenbach on October 5 this year will be celebrated by a wide variety of events throughout Britain, ranging from a new production of *Les Contes d'Hoffmann* at the Royal Opera House to an open-air popular festival in Battersea Park, South London.

At Covent Garden the Hoffmann will be produced by John Schlesinger and conducted by Charles Kleiber, and the cast will include Plácido Domingo and Illeana Cuatrecasas. It will open in December, with sponsorship by the Imperial Group Ltd.

At Battersea Park, the open-air event in May, organized by the Offenbach 180 Committee, will present the Offenbach of the can-can to the people of London, with bands, dancers and other entertainments.

New productions of Offenbach's works during 1980 will include *La Vie Partisane* by Scottish Opera, which will open in Glasgow in December and *Papillon*, choreographed by Ronald Hynd, which will be staged at Leeds on February 7 by the Sadler's Wells Royal Ballet, and appear in London from February 19. Lesser-known works being presented during the year will include a triple bill at the Queen Elizabeth Hall in November: *Bataillon*, *Monsieur Choufleuri* and *La Chanson de Fortunio*.

BBC radio will be broadcasting studio productions of eight operas, the National Film Theatre will be presenting

films associated with the composer, the French Institute is promoting a Symposium/Colloque on Offenbach as well as presenting an exhibition about the composer, and several books are being published during the year.

The English National Opera, English National Opera North, Scottish Ballet and the Singers Company are among other groups presenting Offenbach's works during the year, though one rarely will remain unseen: *Whittington and His Cat*, a work Offenbach wrote for London, was planned for production by the City of London Festival but they were unable to raise the necessary funds.

Martin Huckerby

The Times Special Reports

All the subject matter on all the subjects that matter

home on the deep floor space of the Round House where prolonged entrances can be made from the infernal depths, bringing the actors right up front where deeds of blood and savage ironies can be registered with the flicker of an eyebrow.

Undercurrents almost throughout by Cio Cankelli's sardonic music—mock innocent, serious, and rhythmically barbaric—the performance is a masterpiece of dramatized choreography: every gesture, every mask-like facial expression executed with a timed precision that lends absolute conviction to the restructuring of the play, with Queen Margaret (Medea Chakvava) doubling as a macabre mistress of ceremonies, and the marvellous

actor Avto Makharadze shadowing the cruellest Gloucester as a death's head clown.

I did less than justice to the

PARLIAMENT, January 29, 1980.

Deplorable that major steel unions are not paying a penny piece in strike pay

House of Commons

It was deplorable that so much public money was being spent on subsidising the steel strike, Mr. Reginald Prentice, Minister of State for Social Security and the Disabled, said. Payment of social security benefits to dependants of striking steel workers would probably be paid by now have exceeded £1m.

Mr. Michael Brotherton (Louth, C) had asked how many strike centres from steel workers on strike, where they were situated and what was the total sum that had been paid to date.

Mr. Prentice (Dartmouth, C)—Nineteen centres were set up to handle claims for supplementary benefit (mostly on behalf of dependants) of striking steel workers of the British Steel Corporation. One Tyneside centre has been closed.

Up to close of business on January 22, the latest date for which figures are available, a total of about £790,000 had been paid. In-

cluding £260 to strikers themselves.

Mr. Brotherton—The time has come to stop setting up these centres. It is time for trade unions to bear responsibility for the strikes they have brought about. It is wrong to make the taxpayer finance these strikes.

Mr. Prentice—I agree with his sentiments. It is deplorable that so much money is being spent on subsidising this strike, considering that the two main steel unions and 11 out of 13 smaller ones involved have decided not to pay a penny piece of strike pay.

Mr. John Bruce-Gardyne (Knaresborough, C)—He is not alone in the ISTC which is sitting on a piggy bank of over £1m, should be allowed to use this to buy the services of gentlemen on the picket lines to ensure that the picket lines and not provide one penny piece to the people they have called out on strike without a moment's consultation with those people?

Would he see that our manifesto commitment is acted upon as soon as possible? (Conservative cheers.)

Mr. Prentice—It is utterly deplorable. On top of the damage being inflicted on the nation by this strike, the unions concerned are adding insult to injury by expecting taxpayers to subsidise the strike to the extent of the figures I have announced, which are one week old. Well over £1m will now have been paid out to strikers' families, money which should have been contributed by the unions themselves.

Mr. Reginald Prentice, an Opposition spokesman on health and social security (Brent, East, Lab)—It is not for him to try to outguess me in the matter of the amount of money that has been paid. What are the average payments per person?

Except for £260 all these thousands of pounds are paid out to meet the needs of strikers and their families. The unions, which have been paid for years and should

continue to be so entitled. (Conservative shouts of "Why?")

Mr. Prentice—He and his friends must ask themselves why the Transport and General Workers' Union and the General and Municipal Workers' Union are meeting their normal obligations and paying strike pay while the two biggest unions involved here and 11 out of the 13 smaller ones are not paying a penny piece in strike pay.

Mr. Hugh Dykes (Harrow, East, Lab)—It is important to have a sense of proportion here. Even if the unions paid strike money there would be no guarantee it would go to the wives and families, and why should they be penalised?

Mr. Prentice—It is necessary to keep a sense of proportion. I am saying that the conduct of the unions in this dispute, which is deplorable in general, is particularly reprehensible in this respect. They have not met the normal minimal obligations of unions to their own members and particularly to the families during this industrial dispute.

Government reviewing help towards fuel bills

The Government would announce the results of its review on heating allowances to needy low-income families before next winter, Mr. Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for Social Services, said.

Mr. Jenkin (Reading, Wansford, C) said that it had already been announced that the Government was reviewing the whole range of help available to assist needy consumers, including low-income families, the elderly, and the disabled.

The supplementary heating allowance, which is paid to low-income families and the elderly, and was due to be increased in November this year.

Mr. John Evans (Newton, Lab)—Unless there is a substantial increase in the supplementary heating allowance, the Government will be unable to meet the needs of the elderly and the disabled. The Government is reviewing the whole range of help available to assist needy consumers, including low-income families, the elderly, and the disabled.

Mr. Jenkin—The supplementary heating allowance and the other allowances are operated on the basis of increases in the fuel costs of the retail price index. The Government is reviewing the whole range of help available to assist needy consumers, including low-income families, the elderly, and the disabled.

Mr. Frank Hooley (Sheffield, Heeley, Lab)—The Government is reviewing the whole range of help available to assist needy consumers, including low-income families, the elderly, and the disabled. The Government is reviewing the whole range of help available to assist needy consumers, including low-income families, the elderly, and the disabled.

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Wasteful and counter-productive to keep gas prices at present level

The central core of the Labour Party's indictment of the Government was its callous disregard for the consequences of inflation on most families, Mr. David Owen, Opposition spokesman on energy, said.

He was moving a motion "condemning the Government's savage increase in gas prices over the past three years which would hit ordinary families and have a devastating effect on the cost of living". It called for a comprehensive scheme to protect the most vulnerable sections of the community from the inflationary effect of high fuel prices.

Dr. Owen (Plymouth, Devonport, Lab) said a year ago inflation was running at 8 per cent. Now it was 12 per cent and the cost of the spring it would be 20 per cent.

People were misled and it was time the misleading had to stop. The cost of new supplies of gas was being passed on to consumers. The Government was not to have given consumers full warning of an increase of at least 30 per cent.

Much of the strong feeling from Labour and other people who had been misled and it was time the misleading had to stop. The cost of new supplies of gas was being passed on to consumers. The Government was not to have given consumers full warning of an increase of at least 30 per cent.

As Britain ran down its reserves of gas, it would have to replace them with higher cost supplies from overseas, and imports from Norway and maybe elsewhere.

Following last year's oil price increases and a further increase in the demand for gas, at present about 70,000 domestic consumers and 10,000 industrial users would be connected.

The pressures were so great that British Gas had to ration the supply of gas to its customers. The Government was not to have given consumers full warning of an increase of at least 30 per cent.

The Secretary of State for Industry (Sir Keith Joseph) and his colleagues had been asked to build new factories or expand existing ones. The Government was not to have given consumers full warning of an increase of at least 30 per cent.

We think (he said) that the Government is ready to pay for the better for us in the future and the better for the economic health of the country.

British Gas was making big profits—£360m last year—and this would increase substantially over the target period, although in this year the profits would be reduced by a profit from domestic sales.

There were compelling energy policy reasons for increased gas prices. It was also the case that the Government had to look at the results from higher prices would make an important contribution to the Government's central objective of reducing the public sector borrowing requirement.

There had been suggestions for a gas tax and this was something the Government had to look at. Whether British Gas profits were left in their own name or taken out through a tax, the profits for the PSBR were exactly the same.

The April increase in gas prices would add 0.25 per cent to the cost of gas to the consumer. The October increase an additional 0.16, both spread over the subsequent three months.

It was not that for the British Gas Corporation to hold prices at current levels for all domestic gas consumers was the worst possible thing to do. The Government was not to have given consumers full warning of an increase of at least 30 per cent.

He was sure that the motives behind the Government's scheme were excellent, but it had been a classic example of trying to help everybody and hardly help anybody.

The present seven times the average help from the electricity discount scheme and big enough to subsidise the cost of the winter quarter's fuel bill for those in greatest hardship.

The National Gas Consumer Council had been set up to monitor the situation and to make recommendations. The Government was not to have given consumers full warning of an increase of at least 30 per cent.

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which had been subsidised for a long time were all the more difficult now, but in the Government's view they were decisions which could be taken in the long run.

The Government had agreed these targets. They intended to implement them, and that was consistent with their legal obligation.

The first part of the increase would be brought in on April 1, and it would have been diagnosed not to have given consumers full warning of an increase of at least 30 per cent.

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vicious Government's scheme. The Government's proposals would be announced in good time for people to plan how they could manage to pay the bills. The proposals would be fully publicised.

Mr. Dickson Mabb (Greenock and Port Glasgow, Lab) said the proposal was economic nonsense. It was an exercise on behalf of the Treasury to try to meet the Treasury's challenge that the Tory Party had set itself of massively cutting public spending in a short space of time.

This industry (he said) is being subjected to that end. The Opposition motion was rejected by 305 votes to 252—Government majority, 53, and the Government would be fully publicised.

Mr. John Munn (Glasgow, Lab) said it was necessary to examine a new system which increased rather than reduced the cost of energy. The Government was not to have given consumers full warning of an increase of at least 30 per cent.

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The law must be upheld: everyone should condemn intimidation of steel workers

Mr. Michael Foot, Deputy Leader of the Labour Party, and Mr. Arthur Scargill, president of the Yorkshire miners, were accused during questions to the Prime Minister of rousing in the steel dispute.

Mr. Robert Adley (Christchurch and Lymington, C) asked Mr. Foot—Will he deplore the rousing partnership which was at work yesterday between Mr. Arthur Scargill, the Deputy Leader of the Labour Party, (Conservative cheers)—aimed at destroying respect for the rule of law and the rights of minorities in trade unions?

Will she assure us that the Government's legislative proposals will provide adequate protection against such intimidation, blackmail and intimidation?

Mr. Thatcher (Barnet, Finchley, C)—Almost all trade unionists would agree that the law must be upheld. It is in the interest of the House for me to make a brief statement to end speculation about my intentions for the future.

It is but eight months since the House did me the honour of electing me Speaker for the life of this Parliament. It is a trust which I hope to fulfil.

I do not wish to tempt Providence (Laughter)—but I am feeling as fit as when I assumed the Chair and, therefore, my intention is to continue to serve the House for this Parliament as it invited me to do eight months ago. (Renewed cheers.)

Animal welfare a subject for public Bill

The Speaker (Mr. George Thomas) said that he hoped to remain in office until the end of the present Parliament.

Replying, amid cheers, to birthday greetings which had been accorded to him during question time on the occasion of his 71st birthday anniversary, Mr. Thomas said: In view of the fact that the House for this Parliament as it invited me to do eight months ago. (Renewed cheers.)

Animal welfare a subject for public Bill

The Speaker (Mr. George Thomas) ruled that the Portsmouth City Council Bill should be introduced as a public Bill. The House then after successful objections by Mr. Foot to the formal motion for its second reading.

He said that on February 8, 1939, the then Speaker had ruled that Bills which had been introduced after successful objections by Mr. Foot to the formal motion for its second reading.

The Portsmouth City Council Bill would affect other parts of the country and it also raised the question of public policy with regard to the export of live animals.

The following private Bills received a second reading: British Transport Docks; Clifton Suspension Bridge; Falkland Islands; and the Wesley's Chapel, City Road.

When the Secretary of State (Mr. Patrick Jenkin) and ministers at the Department of Health and Social Security were going to stop operating as moles on behalf of the Treasury? (Labour cheers.)

Power to take fingerprints of suspects

The Earl of Mansfield, Minister of State, Scottish Office, said that for years the police had been trying to clear up crimes and offences with the aid of fingerprints. It had been tipped in favour of additional police powers. Lord Foot said in a speech that the Bill was a matter for consideration.

Each time that balance had been tipped against the safeguards which the Thomson Committee on Criminal Procedure in Scotland thought necessary and essential, he said. This was a matter for consideration.

He acknowledged that in some respects police powers in Scotland were less than they ought to be. It was necessary that certain additional powers be given in order to enable the police to interrogate people still in the suspect stage but not under arrest.

Lord Foot moved an amendment to remove potential witnesses from the scope of the Bill which provided for a policeman to stop a suspect or potential suspect on the street long enough to ask about a suspected offence and, if possible, without unreasonable delay, verify the address of the suspect or witness.

Lord Wigoder (L) said there was no such provision in English law and never had been. Although the English police were not slow to use additional powers, this was one they had not been active in claiming.

What had gone wrong in Scotland was that the Scottish police were below standard in the sense of moral obligations when it came to helping the police in their inquiries?

Nobody to be forced to have social security benefits paid into bank

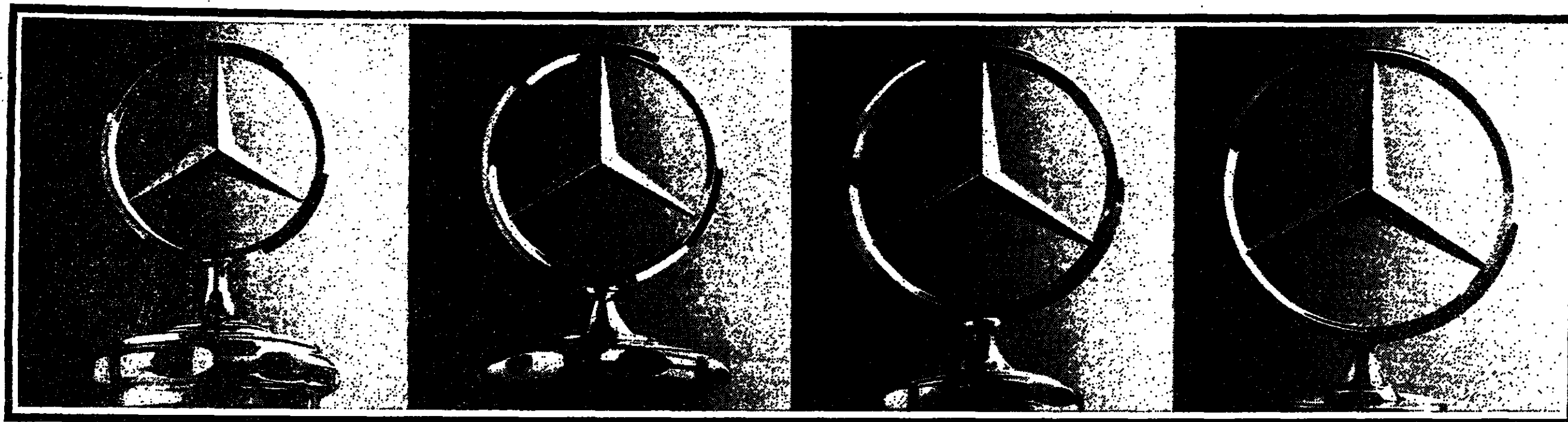
Nobody would be forced to have social security benefits paid directly to a bank account, Mrs. Lynda Chalker, Under Secretary for Health and Social Security, said during questions.

Mrs. Chalker (Wallasey, C) said that as part of the Government's campaign to improve efficiency, an attempt would be made to make arrangements for paying social security benefits, including the frequency of payments and whether they were to be paid to a bank account or to a post office.

Changing those arrangements offered scope for saving taxpayers' money by reducing administrative costs.

The Secretary of State for Social Services (Mr. Patrick Jenkin) was considering the possibility of making those arrangements in conjunction with Sir Derek Rayner.

OVER THE YEARS, MERCEDES-BENZ HAVE MADE SOME CHANGES TO THEIR ORIGINAL DESIGN.



1926

Car design may have undergone some changes over the years, but the star on a Mercedes-Benz has never followed short-lived fashions.

Ever since 1926, the star has represented the ambitions of the two men who invented the car.

Gottlieb Daimler and Karl Benz who forty years before had, unknown to each other, both proved that high-speed petrol engines were capable of powering road vehicles.

The name Mercedes belonged to the daughter of the then Austro-Hungarian consul-general who entered his 23 h.p. Daimler in a race which he easily won.

Many more racing successes followed and the name Mercedes very soon became established as the name for all Daimler cars.

Scarcely a decade had passed since the invention of the motorised vehicle before Daimler and Benz wished to regularly test and compare their new vehicles in racing competitions and rallies.

Racing competitions tested the vehicles' speed

1951

and overall performance, rallies tested construction and endurance over long distances.

Their aim was to test the basic features of design in order to build a car that was suitable for every road condition and every traffic situation.

To design a car that would be equally at home in the northern hemisphere or at the equator, on made-up or unmade roads.

Since 1926, when the firms of Daimler and Benz joined together, their aims have gradually been fulfilled.

Over the last fifty-four years Mercedes-Benz have been developing increased engine performance, easier handling, practical comfort and greater safety for the driver and passengers in the event of an accident.

In 1951, for example, Mercedes-Benz were the first to design the safety cell, a rigid compartment with collapsible crumple zones at the front and rear of the car.

The combination of passive safety with active safety is, in itself, a symbol of Mercedes-Benz.

1968

Passive safety helps to avoid injuries in the event of an accident, and active safety gives the driver all possible help to avoid just that sort of situation in the first place.

In 1968, for example, we saw the development by Mercedes-Benz of the semi-trailing swing rear axle.

It was a simple system to ensure maximum road-holding, especially when you are braking and cornering, while maintaining all the benefits of independent suspension.

It was yet another example of Mercedes-Benz continuing to research and develop, and to refine the concept of the motorised vehicle.

Yet another attempt to reach technical perfection, as is every improvement made by Mercedes-Benz.

And that's exactly what the star represents on every Mercedes-Benz you see on the roads in the 1980's.



Mercedes-Benz

Why Labour cannot build a platform based only on the views of a hundred thousand of its members

This serious challenge Labour must fight

The growth in the strength and influence of the philosophical right worldwide over the last few years has been made easier by the philosophical exhaustion of the left. In Britain this has had important and foreseeable electoral consequences.

It was Richard Titmuss in a book on the blood transfusion market, *The Gift Relationship*, who drew attention for the need to restore the principle of altruism to its primary role in the theory and practice of socialism. In speeches and writings on social policy and human rights during the 70s I warned repeatedly of the dangers of neglecting the co-operative, altruistic philosophical base of the Labour Party's appeal.

One of the crucial ingredients of Mrs Thatcher's victory was the prior change in the political climate that resulted from a sustained philosophical championing of the values of thrift, self-reliance and personal initiative. The change was also helped by a skilfully conducted campaign to discredit the ideals of socialism, identifying the Labour government with bureaucratic statism, insensitivity and the stifling of individual liberty.

The Labour government became defensive and cautious and the unattractive aspects of the new Conservatism were masked. Particularly in the south those parts of the electorate that might normally have reacted against the new Conservatism's naked support for self-interest, exploitation of racialism, advocacy of inequality and insensitivity to unemployment, either ignored these aspects of policy or rated them of less importance than hitherto.

The events of January and February, 1979, greatly helped in this reordering of priorities, powerfully reinforcing the right's critique. It also damaged the Labour Party's highest unchallengeable role as the most concerned and compassionate party. It is hard to underestimate the damage that those two months did to the image of the whole Labour movement.

The serious challenge to the Labour Party in 1980 is to reestablish its historic identification with social responsibility, social cooperation and social morality. To rediscover, re-assess and redefine the role of fraternity in the balance between liberty and equality.

If the Labour Party allows the strand of fraternity and cooperation to be weakened and to become identified with sectionalism then it will no



Dr David Owen:
the task is to develop a philosophy for the 80s, to revive cooperation and fraternity in the party.

longer appear to stand for the development of a co-operative, neighbourly and altruistic society. Without a credible alternative nothing will stop the Thatcher experiment dominating the 1980s and the emergence of an individualistic, unco-operative, isolated, selfish society.

The Conservative Government with its identifiable philosophy and favourable political climate will use all the power and influence of office to maintain this public mood. Despite the economic and political trauma that lies ahead with inflation, unemployment and by-election defeats for the Conservative Government it is not inevitable that the next election will take place in a political climate sympathetic to socialist ideals. To win an election the Labour Party must elect the political climate of the time matters as much as detailed policies.

Between now and 1983 or 1984, a year which has already emotive Orwellian imagery attached to it, there will be persistent attempts to associate the Labour Party with authoritarianism, insensitive bureaucratic control. To depict it as the advocate of all pervading state power, impersonal national institutions and as being dominated by the trade unions.

A political party, unlike a society or a group, must seek and hold the support of millions outside its ranks. It cannot build itself a platform based only on the views of a hundred thousand or less of its members. It is no accident that the Labour Party appears to be less identified now with the historic revolutionary cry of fraternity. It has allowed its

commitment to collective action and thinking on occasions to become identified with sectional interest. It has not challenged vigorously enough the minority within the party and the trade unions who are contemptuous of consensus and scornful of compromise and moderation.

As a consequence, those who see virtue in seeking out agreement and widening support are all too frequently attacked by the left on the present National Executive Council for advocating middle of the road consensus policies. The essence of the 1974 manifesto was on the reestablishment of greater national cohesion. Now it is argued the days of the post-war consensus are over, that we should throw away the framework of post-war Britain and replace the extremism of Mrs Thatcher on the right with a polarized extremism on the left.

The left on the NEC talk now of a political crossroad, of breaking the post-war consensus. But if this means embracing a philosophy of increased centralization and statism it will further weaken the Labour Party's identification with a fraternal society and reinforce an authoritarian image. The task instead is to reshape the current political climate and develop a philosophy for the 1980s that revives the strand of fraternity and cooperation within the Labour Party.

The depressing new finding on class immobility in Britain clearly demonstrates the need for radical changes. But the deep-rooted resistance to change from interest groups demand, primarily, changes in attitudes.

At present there is a grow-

ing wish to question among socialists the role of the all-powerful state, to advocate a greater degree of decentralization and local democratic control. I am very sympathetic to this reorientation; argued for it in relation to devolution for Scotland, advocated local autonomy for the health service and championed local government. If local government is to mean anything it must be free to make local political decisions which will run against national policy whether of a Conservative or Labour government.

It is now the Conservative Government which is restricting local government freedom. Over finance and housing policy they are today's centralizers. The philosophical and practical response for the Labour Party should be to re-examine Layfield's recommendations for local income tax and promote co-operative housing both in the municipal and private sector.

We are all coming to recognize that past levels of economic growth will not return. Some argue for a low growth strategy because of the finite nature of resources. Others still pursue high growth but argue over whether market forces or public ownership generate greater economic wealth. In marked contrast there has been very little questioning of the social limits of growth, or of the extent to which a commitment to the market ethos breeds attitudes of materialism and selfishness that then feed inflationary pressures and sectional interests.

In tackling inflationary wage bargaining and the need for an incomes policy again we have adopted too centralized an approach. Free collective bargaining in the private and commercial public sector and realistic comparability from one body covering all the public services may be a better solution.

In short, the case is for matching the right with their cry of financial incentive, reduced tax and public expenditure, private control and wider shareholding, not with more drab centralist recipes but by reawakening interest in decentralization, socialism and the old socialist ethos of social morality, the social wage, and co-operative ownership.

The author is Labour MP for Plymouth, Devonport
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Bernard Levin

As Punch said to Judy: the genius is missing

I saw *Don Giovanni* the other day, for the first time in my life, and I hope the last. What a feeble opera it is, to be sure, but I found it so full of wit and humour, so full of music, it turns the mighty legend on which it is based into something not much loftier than Punch and Judy; composer and librettist have missed chance after chance. That aria, for instance, in which the Don's servant—remember his name is—enumerates his master's conquests: it altogether lacks the sparkle that the theme demands, and as for the scene in which the Don turns for the head of the peasant girl (her name, as I recall, is—lose my programme—and—ina), their duet is too insipid for words (or music, for that matter). And the comic business that precedes the arrival of the statue in the middle of Giovanni's supper, let alone the frightful anticlimax afterwards, in which the survivors point the moral, is almost impossible to sit through. To think that this work received its first performance in 1787, when the music of the eighteenth century had reached levels of refinement and profundity that had rarely been touched before

and have rarely been touched again! No, no; from now on I shall pass by any opera house where *Don Giovanni* is on the bill knowing what an over-rated and disappointing work it is.

I have an uneasy feeling that some of you may have dropped dead in the course of that paragraph, so I had better say at once that the management of Times Newspapers Ltd can accept no responsibility for loss or damage, however caused, and no agent or servant of the company is empowered to waive or vary that condition in any circumstances. For the survivors, I must now reveal that the opera I am talking about is not the one that was given two performances by Opera Viva last week, the first in this country, it seems; and a stranger musical experience I never expect to have.

The similarities between Gazzaniga's version and Mozart's are not due only to the fact that the legend follows certain well-marked paths: the libretto of the earlier version (its premiere preceded that of Mozart's by only eight months) was written by one Bertati, who also wrote the words for Cimarosa's *Il*

Matrimonio Segreto (a delightful and much under-rated work, incidentally, revived at Glyndebourne some years ago, but as far as I know nowhere in this country since), and Da Ponte, who was never much given to heeding the Prayer Book's plea to "keep my hands from picking and stealing", simply helped himself to the entire plot, though since he, too, was a genius, he clothed it in language that made it an instrument as fitting for Mozart to play as Mozart was for whatever or whomever was playing him.

But the result was extraordinary; for a Mozartian it was similar to, but much more painful than, the experience of seeing Beaumarchais' *The Marriage of Figaro*, in which the soul's car goes beyond human endurance from the absence of the music. The Gazzaniga *Don Giovanni* was worse precisely because there was music to accompany scenes that were intimately familiar. When the curtain went up and Lepore—that is, Pasquale—began to sing *Notte e giorno faticar* to the wrong tune, it sounded weird enough, but as the evening went on, and item after item—the catalogue, *Il mio tesoro*, the invitation and its acceptance,

La ci darem and *Ah, fuggi il traditor*, the champagne aria itself—came out transfigured into something utterly unfamiliar, and I was quietly mad, and were it not for the fact that the Gazzaniga version omits the party scene altogether (imagine the Trio of the Masked Men to music other than Mozart's!), with enabled me to steady myself, I fear I would have ended the evening altogether unbalanced. (As one point, I suggested to those around me that we should all start singing the right music, but I couldn't get a movement going.)

Then my companion, as we sought strong black coffee to steady our nerves in the interval, said something of much wisdom. He called it "a salutary experience in every sense", and when I said "Come, come—we don't need to be reminded that Mozart was a rather good composer", he replied "Yes, he was", whereupon I pondered his meaning, and came to the conclusion that he was right.

The truth is that nothing should be taken for granted, and that unless something happens, regularly and frequently, to recall us to that truth, it will be forgotten, with

frightful consequences. I suppose I know Mozart's *Don Giovanni* as well as any opera in the repertoire, and if you were to ask me, either before or after I saw Gazzaniga's version, whether it is not one of the greatest artistic achievements of the universe, I would of course say that it is. And yet there is no doubt that the quality of my answer would have been different before last week's experience of the lesser work from what it would be—today. For the hardest of all artistic exercises is to remember every time we hear or see or read a familiar masterpiece that it was once entirely new to us. Of course, any work of art—this is how, if all else fails, we know it is a work of art—continues to reveal new depths and qualities however often we experience it, but that, though closely allied, is not quite the same thing.

I must have seen *Figaro* more than 50 times, and for at least the last 42 I have derived a feeling of almost inexpressible happiness from the scene in Act One in which the Count removes the clock from the armchair to reveal Cherubino beneath it; the reason for my happiness is not the joke itself, though well-produced it is a very good

joke, but the fact that it is invariably greeted by a burst of delighted and astonished laughter. The laughter, and the astonishment and delight it contains, comes from those members of the audience who do not know before the scene takes place what is about to happen, and my joy springs, instantly and overwhelmingly, from the fact that in their first experience of the revelation I can vicariously recall my own.

That recall is essential, and if we lose the ability to capture it we have lost something precious and vital. (That is why, at a performance of *Macbeth*, I fight not to catch sight of Banquo's ghost before the director wants me to, though I have seen the play sufficiently often to know by instinct where to look.) It is a curious thing, to say that there are no backneyed works, only backneyed audiences, but the point about truisms is that they are often true, and this one certainly is. What we must never lose, in the experience of art, is innocence, for art will only all its mystery and glory to the innocent; the Sixth Beatitude is an exact description of someone hearing the G

minor Symphony for the first time, and could well serve as the epigraph for Peter Shaffer's tremendous play, *Amadeus* (Do you really suppose that the fact that it is the most gigantic box-office success the National Theatre has had since it moved into the new building is an accident? If you believe that, you are probably capable of believing that the *Magic Flute* is an accident, and if you believe that, you are probably Mr James Fenton.)

And so it was that Gazzaniga's *Don Giovanni*, trifling work though it is, was an experience that, having had, I would not have missed for any consideration. To hear Mozart's *Don Giovanni* is an experience only slightly less overwhelming than the twentieth time than to hear it the first. But to hear the same work with the genius removed is to make that "slightly" on the twenty-first after a slightly still. After which, on Sunday (Mozart's birthday, though I am ashamed to say that I had forgotten until our Mr Mann reminded me in the interval), the real thing: the *Jupiter* and the unfinished C minor Mass, with Abbado and the LSO. Match that, Gazzaniga!

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TORONTO DIARY

The city which Canadians love to hate

Toronto ought to be in deepest winter. There are a few signs of it—trees are a bare grey grass is a dirty yellow and the calendar face shows January. But the storms which blow from the prairies and up from the American south-west have almost entirely missed this pocket of the continent this year.

"A mild sunny day", the television says, and no prospect of snow while outside it is a few degrees below the freezing point, practically balmy. Four hours' drive east into upstate New York, Winter Olympics organizers at Lake Placid are biting their nails.

A warm and almost snowless winter in Toronto means, first and foremost, a winter without the curse of salt: thrown by the thousands of tons on to roads and pavements from fleets of lorries after the normal ice and snow storms, it eats bootleather and the bellies of cars and hangs in encrustations from trams and buses. Later it lurks in solution in great briny puddles to be splashed on the shivering pedestrian by passing vehicles,

and finally it dries a persistent rimy white on everything it has touched.

In spite of the "warm spell", outward evidence that there is an election campaign in progress is scarce, save for newspaper headlines. Candidates have been doing some campaigning, but it is still too chilly to spend much time shaking hands at the factory gate.

The large fluorescent cardboard placards carrying candidates' names that grace front lawns during the normal summer campaigns are few and far between. It is an effort, even in this unseasonable mildness, to pound the wooden stakes into the hard ground.

Keeping out the weather

Weather, in any case, is something Toronto is adept at avoiding. If in summer it is often necessary to wear a sweater in cinemas and restaurants made frigid by the ubiquitous air conditioner, in winter the city has itself organized to summer in a subterranean world of connected pedestrian tunnels, train lines and big shopping "malls" with gardens and fountains (the largest, rising partly above ground, is an improbable mutation in soaring glass and

metal of the Galleria in Milan and contains almost 300 shops).

These shopping centres are designed to a strict formula. Two or three big stores and food halls form the magnets drawing customers through the connecting shop-line corridors. "Food modules" are open spaces with tables and one Chinese fast-food counter, one Italian, one fish and chips, one hamburger and one "natural".

The same pattern prevails in the suburbs, where above-ground shopping "plazas" surrounded by car parks the size of several football pitches continue to proliferate. The old open-air plazas have been forced to enclose themselves or go bankrupt. As the January sales wind down, the red plush chair where Santa Claus sat at each plaza to hear the wishes of child supplicants is being dismantled and packed away. In deference to the women's liberation movement—or maybe just as a commercial twist—the girls were there on her own throne this year.

Bathroom railway

Riding the underground trains, one sees the evidence for a characterization which

metal of the Galleria in Milan and contains almost 300 shops).

"Father, I've sinned in thought, words and opinion polls...."



Toronto high-life takes as a dubious accolade: "The city with clean subways." Each station—no litter, no smoking, no buskers—comprises acres of polished terrazzo granite floors

and shiny tile walls, so that the sensation becomes one of travelling through a succession of vast gleaming bathrooms.

Reaching a suburban destination, one is often able to wait snugly indoors until the appropriate flashing light precipitates a 30-second dash up through the freezing air of one of the covered stairways on to a roasting bus. A little video screen at the driver's right hand flashes instructions and information from a computer system which knows the number of passengers and location, within three feet, of all 1,200 buses. The phenomenon of simultaneous arrival by three No. 28 buses seems unknown.

With office and apartment towers poked into the ground everywhere during the past 15 years and suburbs, crisscrossed by miles of chain-link fencing, the city in winter resembles bleak dormitory towns in Russia—the remaining ramshackle Toronto are pleasingly reassuring.

Narrow brick houses are painted blazing yellow, blue, green or red by Italian and Portuguese occupants who manage also to squeeze rough and endearing versions of clas-

sical gardens into a few square yards of earth, complete with shrines, statues, and miniature walkways winding between tiny clipped hedges and minute borders.

Shops here are in two or three-storey buildings, their alleys a clutter of telephone poles and wires, trash bins and black iron fire escapes. Salt fish and salmon are dispensed.

The old red trams are part of this (they have also proved cheaper to run than buses). It was the death of the American streetcar that probably kept the Toronto lines alive. Toronto was able to buy scores of trams almost scrap-metal prices in the early fifties because for 20 years National City Lines, a consortium financed by General Motors, Firestone and Standard Oil, had been buying up United States mass-transit systems and replacing them with diesel buses—produced by General Motors, Firestone and Standard Oil.

The private automobile still rules here, of course, and the city is ringed with dual carriage ways of up to 12 lanes. Sometimes, in the scrub bush of the canyons between the motorway junctions or amid

the tract-housing developments, an old brick or wood gabled farmhouse can still be seen.

Palpable prosperity

Sprawling up the slope from Lake Ontario and the port area with its railways and grain elevators, the city is Canada's financial centre. In 1978 the English bought this land from the Mississauga Indians for, among other items, 24 brass kettles, 10 dozen looking glasses and 47 carrots. Last year annual retail sales were more than £3,500m. Even in a slow economy, the prosperity is palpable.

Toronto is the cultural centre of English Canada, too, and its intellectual heart—though when a resident speaks of a "right winger" or "the blue line", he is almost certainly engaging not in a discussion of ideology or political geography but of ice hockey.

"If I was asked by some stranger to North American culture to show him the most important religious building in Canada, I would take him to Toronto's Maple Leaf Gardens", one writer remarked, referring to the home ice of the

Maple Leaf's team. [News of the club's latest player trades is at the top of the front page here, beside events in Iran and Afghanistan. Holders of season tickets have been known to bequeath them in their wills.]

Once upon a time, Toronto's piety and conservatism earned it the derogatory title "Toronto the Good", and sinners looking for a weekend of drink and abandon went to Montreal ("liquor stores" are still difficult to find for the unitarians).

The rest of Canada still cultivates with a dislike of the place. And yet, the object of disdain is itself composed mainly of people from elsewhere: in a population of 2,800,000 only 300,000 were born here.

But this pet aversion may have its uses in a country torn by regionalism. The theme of a post-war radio play by a Toronto broadcaster remains valid: "That's just it. We all hate Toronto. It's the only thing everybody's got in common. You hear a dreadful quarrel going on between (English) Canadians and French Canadians, or Maritimers and Manitobans. Just when they're going to cut each other's throat, somebody mentions Toronto."

Leslie Plummer

مكثان الأهل

Social Focus

Why Mr Abse is having to fight the divorce battle all over again

"Personally I feel there should be two different kinds of divorce: one when children are involved, another when they aren't. I am completely against making divorce any easier for couples with children—that's my prejudice, I suppose." The speaker is Mr Leo Abse, one of Parliament's more forward backbenchers, veteran of many a public issue and Private Member's Bill, whose latest task it is to urge reform of our much criticized divorce system.

But haven't we—and Mr Abse—been here before? Most people in their thirties and forties can recall the ferocity with which the 1969 Divorce Reform Act was fought, and the fact that Mr Abse was one of its chief architects. Now he is chairing an all-party committee of MPs to try to persuade the Government to take another look. What, in his opinion, went wrong?

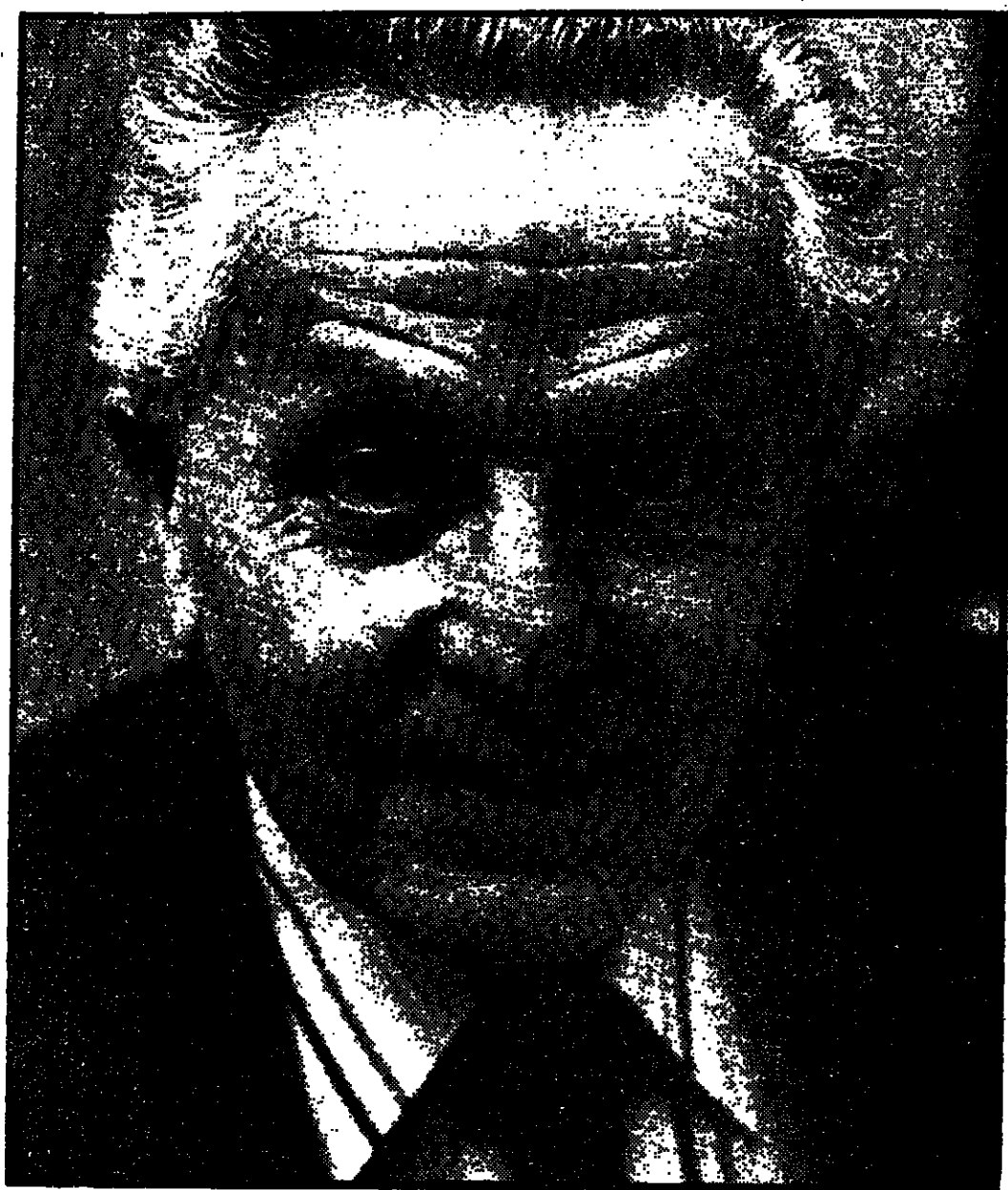
"The 1969 law had built in obsolescence", he says. "We were legislating on a staircase moving so rapidly that if I ever had any illusions that this was the last word on the subject they were rapidly shattered by the changing role of women. The big battle at the time was with those opponents of the Bill who claimed that it would license middle-aged men to abandon their wives and marry their secretaries."

"If you remember it was called a 'Casanova's Charter'. It was to placate that lobby—the middle-class, middle-aged ladies who were worried about being divorced against their wishes—that stringent financial safeguards for women were put in the 1969 Act and this caused many of the present difficulties."

But Mr Abse is anxious not to identify himself solely with the more vocal, not to mention more impoverished ex-husbands who are the most aggressive of the lobbies wanting change. "We have a much wider spectrum of opinion and issues to take into account." Whatever his sympathies with the husbands who suffer, he keeps them close to his chest. He is well aware that on its own this will not create the climate for change.

"There is a great deal of dissatisfaction elsewhere. The Law Society made its suggestions last year. The Church organizations quite rightly stress the problem of children. It is clear that the manner in which the courts currently dispose of them is much too perfunctory."

Concern for children has been one of the main themes of Mr Abse's parliamentary career. Illegitimacy, adoption and abortion are three issues towards which he has been drawn on their behalf. And one of the main



Photograph by David Jones

motives behind his support for divorce law reform in the 1960s was the legitimizing of the thousands of children whose parents could not free themselves from their official partners under the old law.

This time the issues are rather different—the difficulties faced by fathers who seek custody or access, and the extraordinary

bias of the judiciary, one of whose members recently caused an uproar when he handed over an 18-month-old baby who had been, in his opinion, well cared for by its father, to a mother who had left home a few weeks after its birth.

Did the 1969 Act achieve anything? It did away with those grisly court battles to

establish "guilt" or "innocence" which provided some of the press with its news and the private detectives with their employment. But, says Mr Abse, the failure lies in the way the old conflicts have been transferred from battles about guilt to arguments over money, children and property. He feels that much more could be done to reconcile couples after divorce. He feels that many of the disputes that cost the participants and the taxpayer millions of pounds each year are just ways of continuing unresolved conflicts.

He places a lot of blame on the judiciary. "The 1969 Act stated clearly that conduct was to be taken into account when dealing with ancillary matters. Judges have chosen to take an extravagantly amoral view in their interpretation. They have ignored that part of the Act completely. They have shirked their role."

Was Lord Denning wrong when he said, in his famous *Wachtel v Wachtel* decision, that behaviour was only to be taken into account if it was "obvious and gross"?

"Yes", says Mr Abse, "he was. We never intended the Act to be interpreted like that. Part of the dissatisfaction with the present system, he says, arises because the courts seem to have suspended all moral judgment. However convenient this is for the lawyers, the public does not like it."

He thinks new procedures have made a mockery of the reconciliation provisions, which were put into the 1969 Act to please the Churches. But whether reconciliation was ever a realistic objective for a divorce law in the first place must be open to question.

Mr Abse clearly recognizes a hornet's nest when he sees one. He diplomatically refers to "differences of emphasis" among the various groups wanting change. What he wants is a full Law Commission inquiry.

"I think this is the best way to approach things. The Law Commission are not dry as dust, hidebound lawyers who will take a narrow view of the issue. They will involve everyone with something to say. What I want to do is to convince the Lord Chancellor that there is genuine public concern and demand for change. We must have a comprehensive inquiry. Nothing is worse than hurried and botched legislation. It is a long haul, of course. The last time it took seven years. All these things take time. I am used to that."

Maggie Drummond

Tomorrow, in the first of three programmes, BBC's *Nationside* will discuss the problems of divorced men.

Chancery Division

Council liable for gypsy nuisance

Page Motors Ltd v Epsom and Ewell Borough Council

Before Mr Justice Balcombe, sitting as an additional Chancery judge.

Epsom and Ewell Borough Council were held liable for a nuisance suffered by Page Motors Ltd due to the presence of gypsies on the Mousch Estate as from January 1, 1975. His Lordship directed an inquiry as to what damage, if any, had been suffered, said that it was not reasonable for the council to have taken five years to find a solution, and that if an alternative site had been provided within the borough the problem could have been solved within a year.

Mr L. G. Cullen, QC, and Miss Hazel Williamson for Page Motors; Mr Konrad Schiemann and Mr Nicholas Huskinson for the council.

THE BOROUGHSHIP said that in July, 1973, the council agreed to grant Page Motors, a family company, a 99-year lease of 1.96 acres on the estate, comprising a garage, a house and a garage, for the purpose of erecting certain industrial buildings from which they could carry on their business of sale and repair of motor cars. The cost of the buildings was £18,000. A lease was granted at a rent of £14,112 a year for the first 11 years from February, 1974, and thereafter at a rent to be agreed.

At first there were a few gypsy caravans on the estate, and their presence was known to the council. Under Part II of the Caravan Sites Act, 1968, Surrey County Council had a statutory duty to provide adequate sites for gypsies residing in or resorting to the area, but in November, 1973, there was no such site in the borough council's area.

From 1974 the number of gypsy caravans increased rapidly, reaching a maximum of 74 in 1977. The behaviour of the gypsies of which Page Motors complained included burning rubber tyres, causing acrid smoke, obstructing access, failing to control dogs with the result that children were attacked, etc. Their presence assaulted the senses. His Lordship found that the matters of complaint were fully established.

Customers became afraid to come, and suppliers refused to deliver goods. The interference was irreducible and the result of a drop in turnover was attributable to their presence. Orders were obtained for possession, but none was enforced. Page Motors sought the council's aid to remove the gypsies. The council refused to do so, since it had no power to do so under the law.

Page Motors claimed that the council was liable for any loss suffered due to the presence of the gypsies on the estate as from January 1, 1975. What the council did was to adopt the nuisance, and to take steps to move the gypsies the council were enabled to contain the gypsy problem during the five years before the solution was found.

At the trial, the council sought to rely on the provisions of the Caravan Sites Act, 1968, to show that it was not liable for the nuisance.

His Lordship was glad that the law permitted him to come to a just solution. Where, as here, the nuisance resulted from a problem of public importance, it would seem wrong if the plaintiff had to bear the whole loss caused by the delay in finding an acceptable solution. It was fair that the burden be shared—as it would be by an award of damages against the council—by the whole body of ratepayers on whose behalf the council were acting when they decided not to evict the gypsies without first allowing time for the working out of the democratic process.

It was unnecessary to decide the question of derogation from grant, which his Lordship was not permitted to do under the provisions of the Caravan Sites Act, 1968. An inquiry would be ordered into what damage, if any, Page Motors had suffered. The council followed that their drop in turnover had resulted in a loss of profits; any loss might have been counterbalanced by the reduction in rates granted on their premises.

Solicitors: Bertram White & Co; Sharpe, Pritchard & Co for Mr A. B. Schofield, Epsom.

Court of Appeal

Time limit for unfair dismissal claims

Riley v Tesco Stores Ltd and Another

Before Lord Justice Stephenson, Lord Justice Waller and Dame Elizabeth Lane.

[Judgments delivered January 28] The question whether it is reasonably practicable to present a claim for unfair dismissal within three months is a question of fact for the industrial tribunal to decide.

His Lordship also accepted that the council were subject to constraints to which an ordinary landowner was not subject. They had to act, and be seen to act, in a democratic manner, taking due account of the wishes of the electorate, and not rushing into a

The question whether it was reasonably practicable to present a claim within three months was a question of fact for the industrial tribunal to decide by all three members of the Court of Appeal in *Riley v Tesco Stores Ltd* (1979) 1 ICR 52. His Lordship agreed with the judgment of the Master of the Rolls in that case except insofar as he did not allow for the view of Lord Justice Waller in *Porter v Handbridge Ltd* (1978) 1 ICR 943, 948-9. The reported cases were helpfully digested in the judgment of Lord Justice Brandon in the *Wall's Meat* case.

The principles laid down by the majority in *Dedman v British Building & Engineering Appliances Ltd* (1974) 1 WLR 171 still applied to a claim under paragraph 21(4). The extension of the time limit to three months and the insertion of the word "reasonably" before "practicable" had led to the approach of a strict construction: the task of employers would be difficult if there could be a claim for reinstatement months after the dismissal.

Where an employee alleged ignorance of his right or how he should pursue it or was under a mistaken belief, the industrial tribunal should look at the circumstances of his ignorance and belief. The employer was to be given advice given to him, whether the delay was reasonable or not, or his adviser part. Even if either was at fault or unreasonable it was still reasonably practicable for him to have presented his claim in time. When considering that matter the industrial tribunal should prefer the test in *Norrett v Union Industrial Co-operative Society Ltd* (1976) 1 ICR 442 to that in *Union Industrial Co Ltd v Blunden* (1977) 1 ICR 420.

There was no significance in the skill of the employer, although that might be if the employer could rely on it as an excuse for not applying in time. There was evidence in the present case to support the claim that the Citizens Advice Bureau had been engaged in advice Mrs Riley, but she would not have been in a better position if they were "unskilled" or if they had not been "engaged".

The present case had brought into the light the need for industrial tribunals to consider whether they should give third parties the opportunity of answering what was said about them in their absence. Witness summons could be issued by either side, but there might be many cases in which it was difficult for the employee or the adviser, and it was inadvisable to lay down a general rule.

Lord Justice Waller delivered a concurring judgment and Dame Elizabeth Lane agreed with both judgments.

Solicitors: Blakeney, Green & Pride; Lovell, White & King; Jaques & Co.

Channel 4: can the big money be found?

Television at breakfast may or may not be a starter, nor will it necessarily begin when the new franchises start in January, 1982

There are still meetings to be held, views to be canvassed, before the Independent Broadcasting Authority settles on its choice of contractors to serve the commercial network and its new, slightly altered regions, as we gaze, still trying to get the focus right, into the 1980s.

Television at breakfast may or may not be a starter, nor will it necessarily begin when the new franchises start on January 1, 1982. The snap crackle-pop of breakfast food advertising cheques may be heard in the land—but that, as the IBA people pointed out last week, is not something they are concerned about.

What is certain, however, is that duality has been created in two large regions, the south and the Midlands. And although each is split, each will be controlled by a single company, which at a stroke rules out smaller groups who had hoped for a clean break in each case.

Unless they can find substantial backing from a bank or a commercial enterprise, they are certain to find the tens of millions of pounds required to go into the television business quite beyond them.

Looking first at the south, the region runs to Dorchester in the west, northwards from Southampton to Reading and the Thames Valley, east to the Isle of Thanet. Taking over the Bluebell Hill transmitter between Chatham and Maidstone, the company operating the franchise will serve the whole of Kent instead of half of it.

"It's going to remove that frustration and we shall know programmes designed for the area will be capable of being received through the entire area", Mr Frank Coppstone, managing director of Southern Television, says.

Southern is assuming it owns the South/South-East contract, and there is little doubt that the companies which already have the resources must do so, is now having studies made as

to the best location for its new studios. There is a small one at Dover and there are technical, geographical and social factors to think about. And it is going to cost a lot of money, but how much, no one knows. Studies have also been set up to look at these matters: little more than three months are left to get applications in.

Mr Coppstone estimates an additional population to be served of about 500,000—and with that kind of figure you can start taking a hard look at your advertising rate-card, just as a newspaper does when it puts on circulation.

This is precisely what is not going to happen in the Midlands: no more people, extra studios to be set up, probably at Nottingham, where ATV already uses the Theatre Royal, and a whopping £8m subscription to pay towards the fourth channel. Lord Windlesham, managing director of ATV, is unperturbed.

He would, he says, be interested to know how anyone else can take over the Midlands area when ATV have the facilities and the backing that now exist. "I think it is probably thumbs down to any ideas from producers or entrepreneurs about this area. They were only interested in the East Midlands, and were coming with financial backing from Leeds."

Can any David challenge such a Goliath, a company that produces expensive Palladium shows for the network, the high cost Pilgrimage programmes and has documentary teams in India and Latin America? It certainly seems unlikely; and it also seems unlikely that areas like ITV or Southern will be required to produce programmes for the network, although Southern does talk about "possible" networking.

The Midlands franchise will, Lord Windlesham thinks, be easily the most expensive to operate. And that alone rules out all opposition.

So, not a dramatic solution in the Midlands, as the IBA concedes. The arrangement will maintain it as one of the main regional sources of high-quality programmes for the whole ITV network. It also means the status quo so far as the controlling hand is concerned, unless an already successful company is to be put out of business.

For something entirely different, then, the viewer is probably going to have to look beyond the next lot of franchises to the fourth channel, or the second as ITV chiefs have it.

The Government's Broadcasting Bill, now imminent, will give us a few more clues as well as giving legitimacy to the next stage in the life of independent television.

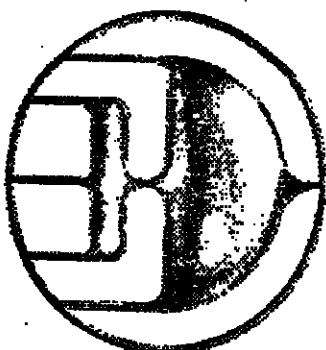
Kenneth Gosling

Generous Malaysians



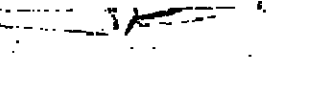
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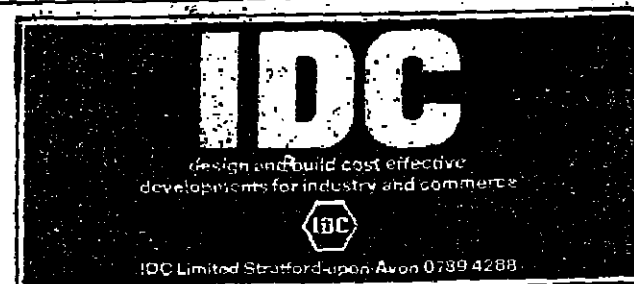
John Foord

plant and machinery valuers

plant and machinery valuers

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Jan 28. Dealings End, Feb 8. Contango Day, Feb 11. Settlement Day, Feb 18
 § Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

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مكتبة
الكتاب

Why the Welsh
are on
the warpath,
page 21

THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

Stopping the rot
in the
textile towns,
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Stock markets

FT 100 464.0 up 10.4.
FT CMC 67.65 up 0.01.
Sterling
\$2.520 up 35 points.
Index 71.4 down 0.2.

Dollar

Index 85.0 down 0.1.

Gold

\$ 670 an ounce up \$45.

Money

3 month Sterling 17 1/2 to 17 3/4
3 month Euro-S 14 1/2 to 14 3/4
6 month Euro-S 14 1/2 to 14 3/4

IN BRIEF

Iran offers redress to nationalized banks

Mr Ali Reza Norbani, Iran's central bank governor, said yesterday that foreign banks will be compensated for their stakes in ventures absorbed into Iran's newly nationalized banking system. Compensation will be awarded once the net worth of the banks is worked out.

The central bank has also cancelled the licences of United States banks operating in Iran.

The governor also stressed that interest on government loans will be paid, although United States banks would have to use funds blocked in the United States banking system.

Turkey pays debts

The Turkish Government has announced in Ankara plans for repayment of nearly \$1,900m (about £844m) of arrears on unguaranteed supplier credits.

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Gear plant to close

Borg-Warner Corporation says it will close its Letchworth, Hertfordshire, transmission plant and consolidate its British transmission operations at the Kenfig plant, in south Wales.

Oil price lifts gold



The gold price rose yesterday on the news of some oil price rises, and closed in London at \$670 an ounce, up \$45 on Monday.

R-R choose Atlanta

Atlanta is the most likely location for Rolls-Royce's proposed United States jet engine assembly plant, says Sir Kenneth Keith, chairman of the British firm, who is in Atlanta for the official opening of Rolls-Royce's first United States-based engineering office.

Midland licence

Shell and the British National Oil Corporation have been awarded a licence to explore and produce oil in the Midlands near Stafford.

Wall St turnover up

Turnover on the New York Stock Exchange increased to \$5,480,000 shares but the Dow Jones industrial average closed slightly down at 874.40.

\$3,080m deficit

This December the United States has registered its largest monthly trade deficit for 11 months—\$3,080m (about £1,960m). The deficit for the first 12 months of 1979 was \$2,850m.

Correction

The picture which appeared on page 15 yesterday was not of Mr. Emile van Lennep, Secretary-General of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, but of Mr. Max van Lennep. We apologize for the error.

Alfred Herbert to cut back 700 jobs in 'final fight' for the group's survival

By Edward Townsend

Alfred Herbert, the once-proud flagship of the British machine tool industry, is to embark on a new reorganization plan, including a cutback of 700 jobs, in what was described yesterday as a final bid for survival.

The group, owned by the National Enterprise Board, has been refused further state aid and is now in the grip of a severe cash crisis. The new plan envisages total concentration on production of high technology machine tools and the progressive disposal of remaining activities.

Herbert's forecast losses for 1979 of £1,500,000, a figure exacerbated by last year's onerous strikes, are likely to be exceeded, Mr Peter Rippon, the group chairman, said yesterday that without the reorganization losses for 1980 would be higher.

Two hundred of the redundancies are to occur at the company's main machine tool plant at Edgwick in Coventry at which the new range of advanced machines will be built. About 260 jobs will be lost at the Herbert Tooling and Tooling Ltd plant in Birmingham, and 27 at the Herbert DeVlieg factory at Lutworth.

The marketing and sales operations are to be decentralized and 104 staff employees at the company's headquarters are to be made redundant. The redundancies, some of which will start in 30 days' time, will reduce the labour force to 3,800 and mean that the number of workers has cut the number of workers by more than 68 per cent.

Mr Rippon, who became chairman last autumn, said: "We can keep going as long as we don't suffer severe repercussions from strikes or disruption of our own employees. Herbert is not in a position to take chances."

Herbert's latest crisis comes



Mr Lees (left) and Mr Rippon explaining the Herbert reorganization plan at yesterday's press conference.

after several years of Government funding which has failed to produce consistent profitability. Since 1975, the company has received £43m of public money and Mr Rippon said it was told by the NEB ten weeks ago that there would be no more and that the company must be self-financing.

The NEB also said that the company's total borrowing facility of £16m could not be increased except on a temporary basis to finance redundancies.

In 1976, Herbert borrowed £5m from the NEB to finance the building of machine tools for stock. Mr Walter Lees, the chief executive, said those machines had now been sold but that current stocks of £40m were "£12m too high".

Screaming of the business is to include disposal of some fringe activities. These include Herbert Sigma, which makes industrial measuring devices and switches. Arrior, which produces pulverizing machines, Herbert Numerical Controls, the Red Lane reconditioning centre and various property assets.

Mr Rippon said the company would consider bids for the DeVlieg and Herbert Tooling operations and gave warning

Survey of large investors challenges Stock Exchange reluctance to change practices

By Andrew Goodrick-Clarke
Financial Editor

Changes in the present structure of the British stock market are inevitable and the Stock Exchange must accept the fact now, "his in essence is the most controversial point to emerge from a new survey of 24 institutional investors on the future of the securities industry commissioned by stockbrokers Grievouson, Grant."

At a time when the Stock Exchange is preparing for a long battle to preserve the basic structure of the market intact—including preservation of the single capacity trading system and maintenance of fixed brokerage commissions—the new report threatens to inflame a simmering debate. In about two years' time the Stock Exchange is due to make its case before the Restrictive Practices Court. The attitude of institutional investors towards the future structure of the market is considered crucial if the Stock Exchange is to make headway.

The report is not encouraging for the Stock Exchange. Most of the institutions interviewed by the survey, however, were not in favour of a rushed decision without room for manoeuvre. The institutions, while not agreeing with the reference to the court (a decision which was upheld by the present Government), felt that there were enough questions which needed

answering to make a thorough review of the entire structure desirable.

But once again there was a call for gradual change and an appeal to the Stock Exchange, although it could be expected to hold out until the bitter end—to come up with a strong contingency plan for use in the event that the case was lost. The institutions hoped that their views would be taken into close consideration in the process.

The panel selected for the survey included five insurance companies, four pension funds, four investment trusts, three unit trusts and four merchant banks. Among them were the Prudential, British Airways Pension Fund, Commercial Union, Hambros and Scottish Widows.

But while the majority appeared to want negotiated commission rates there was resistance to the idea of paying for stockbrokers' research. In the United States, where negotiated commissions were introduced in 1975, a result of been for brokers to "unbundle" their analytical research and ask investors to pay for something which had previously been included in the service.

Institutions questioned feared that any sudden shakeout could mean that the general level of

research from brokers would fall and more analysts would have to be taken on by institutions to compensate for this.

There was also strong resistance to the idea of brokers being involved in fund management, although most respondents wanted brokers to expand into diversified financial advisory areas. The merchant banks interviewed were particularly aggressive on this point. Not only was the competitive element unpopular, but there were also suggestions that unnaturally high commissions were subsidizing brokers' fund management businesses.

Some were so strongly opposed to brokers' fund management operations that they were considering breaking off relationships with brokers who were in competition with them, or were contemplating giving Stock Exchange in the Restrictive Practices Court.

Overall the institutions felt that the Stock Exchange's response to the events which threatened such fundamental change in the securities market was disappointing. The Stock Exchange Council was felt to be weighted towards the stockbrokers' point of view (although in fact only four jobbers are on the 46-member council) and not enough consideration was given to institutional investor opinion.

Financial Editor, page 21

Big changes urged in training of accountants

By Adrienne Gleeson

Recommendations for radical changes in the training of chartered accountants are made today in a report from the influential 100 Group of chartered accountants, whose members are drawn from senior financial managers in the major London-based industrial and commercial enterprises.

In their report, "Training and Development of Finance Managers for Industry and Commerce," the 100 Group says that the current training of accountants should be broken by the firms in public practice and permit selected companies in industry and commerce to introduce approved training schemes.

The report is the culmination of a year's study by a working party under the chairmanship of Mr Michael Julian, finance director of BICC. It reflects a growing belief by senior managers in industrial and commercial companies that the traditional practical training of prospective chartered accountants as articulated clerks with firms in public practice is no longer relevant to those who move into industry or commerce after qualifying.

Mr Julian says that the best answer is the integration of the accounting profession, whose members' allegiance is to the public, with the six different accounting bodies—the Institutes of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, in Scotland, and in Ireland, the Association of Cost and Accountants, and the Association of Certified Accountants, and the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy. Proposals for integrating the profession were thrown out by the chartered accountants in 1970.

The 100 Group says that all or part of these original integration proposals should be revived, although its principal recommendations (for training with industrial and commercial companies) and for the "streamlining" of recruits according to their likely specialization in public practice or in industry or commerce) are not in the report.

However, Mr David Richards, of Deloitte Haskins & Sells, the president of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, says that integration is still the policy of the council of the institute and that the issue would be revived if there were signs that a significant proportion of the membership wanted it.

Gulf states' price rise for crude is setback for Saudi Arabia

By Nicholas Hirst
Energy Correspondent

Saudi Arabia's second attempt in just over a month to end the pricing disorder in the international oil market failed yesterday as four Gulf producing states raised the cost of their crude by \$2 a barrel.

A further round of price increases now seems certain, but the size of the rise will depend on the action taken by the British National Oil Corporation, which effectively controls the price of half the oil imported by the United Kingdom.

An across-the-board increase of \$2 a barrel by all producers would put up to 3p on a gallon of four-star at the pumps. It would be the third rise for most companies since the December meeting of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries in Caracas, Venezuela, failed to fix a unified level for members' crude and left them free to charge what they liked.

Yesterday's decision by the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Iraq and Qatar, all considered moderates within Opec, to raise their prices by \$2 a barrel is a sharp blow to Saudi Arabia's pride.

An attempt to achieve a unified pricing structure at Caracas Saudi Arabia raised its prices sharply from \$18 to \$24 before the meeting to try to set a new, higher base level from which the cost of other countries' crudes could be calculated.

That move failed because the militant North African producers of light crudes, Algeria and Libya, demanded the maintenance of a \$5.50 differential from the Saudi Arabian price, which is used traditionally as a benchmark for calculations of quality and freight costs for their own output.

This was unacceptable to the Saudi Arabian delegation Shaikh Ahmedzaki Yamani, Saudi Arabian Oil Minister, said his country would continue to hold the \$24 price for as long as possible. He predicted a mini-glut of oil developing and the high prices of other countries being forced down.

The attempt this week by Saudi Arabia to reestablish a unified structure by increasing its price from \$24 to \$26 came as a surprise because of Shaikh Yamani's earlier statements. The immediate leapfrogging—the United Arab Emirates is charging \$29.60 for its output backdated to January 1—is like a slap in the face.

Libya and Algeria are now expected to add a further increase to the prices of their own crudes, which, with surcharges in Libya's case, cost up to \$35 a barrel.

Japanese 'oil envoy' sent to Middle East

From Koji Nakamura
Tokyo, Jan 29

The Japanese government has sent Mr Sunawo Sonoda, former foreign minister, as a special envoy to the Middle East to "ensure a stable supply of Middle Eastern oil" for Japan.

According to a statement of sources, the decision to send Mr Sonoda at the moment is designed to secure commitments for long-term supply when the situation is unpredictable.

The countries he is scheduled to visit—early in February—are Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Iraq and the United Arab Emirates, which together supply more than 50 per cent of Japan's oil imports. These totalled 280 million tons in 1979, with 76 per cent from the Middle East, and Saudi Arabia alone accounting for 28.4 per cent.

Accepting the appointment as special envoy, Mr Sonoda said he would be securing oil, and indicated his interest in visiting Iran, at present the target of economic sanctions from the United States and western allies.

The Japanese government has resisted the American demand for sanctions on the grounds that Iran is one of Japan's

major oil suppliers—27 million tons or 9.9 per cent of imports in 1979. The percentage had been higher in 1978, but volume dropped sharply in 1979 after the revolution.

Besides oil, Japanese interests in Iran have committed an estimated \$1,000,000, including a huge 780,000 yen petrochemical complex which is almost complete. Iran issued a strong warning a couple of weeks ago that unless Japan completed the project, final construction would be awarded to an unidentified East European country. The Iranian government also said it would stop oil supplies if Tokyo acceded to the American request for sanctions.

Critics have expressed doubt as to the effect of Mr Sonoda's mission.

The proposed visit to Iran by Mr Sonoda will not be welcomed by the United States, the observers noted. It was pointed out that, when Mr Henry Kissinger was United States Secretary of State, America objected to Japanese involvement in the Middle East. Because of this, Japanese prime ministers who visited other supply countries, did not visit the Middle East.—Reuter.

Armitage chief gets £75,000

By Rosemary Unsworth
Mr Kenneth Campbell, chairman of Armitage Shanks has explained why the board accepted Blue Circle Industries' £30m cash and share offer.

In a letter to shareholders he said that although the board believed the offer was a good one, it could continue as a highly successful independent company, the Blue Circle offer represented an outstanding opportunity for Armitage to develop its potential, particularly overseas, where new markets should be opened up.

Mr Campbell will retire when the offer becomes unconditional, and will receive £75,000 in cash, his car, valued at £9,000, and he will be sold the freehold of his house for £30,000. Under his service agreement which runs to 1983 Mr Campbell would have received £100,000.

Shareholders who wish to take up Blue Circle's alternative cash and share offer which provides one Blue Circle share plus 258p cash will be able to do so until February 21. The main offer is two Blue Circle shares for every six Armitage shares, valuing each Armitage share at 91.7p.

Armitage's share price rose 4p to 96p yesterday.

Decca chief dies just after Rascal bid assent

By Alison Mitchell

Sir Edward Lewis, the chairman of Decca, died yesterday only days after his board had recommended the £70m sale of the company to Rascal Electronics.

Sir Edward, 79, who knew that he was critically ill, had committed the 17.2 per cent of the ordinary capital owned by himself, his family and related trusts to Rascal. Arrangements were made accordingly and his death will not affect the transaction.

Rascal has already built up a 5 per cent stake in Decca and another 8 per cent of the ordinary shares, currently in Swiss trusts, is likely to support the bid.

The Kuwait Investment group and Prudential Assurance, which between them control a further 17 per cent of the equity, have yet to commit themselves but Rascal's advisers will be holding discussions with them this week.

Even if the Rascal takeover is thwarted by a counter-bid it will still accept Sir Edward's own and related holdings. The board announced yesterday that Sir Edward's deputy, Mr Nigel Graham Maw, will take over as chairman.

Following President Carter's announcement that the defence budget is to be increased by \$15,000m and helped by a technical position in the market, Rascal shares rose 11p yesterday to 242p, taking Decca ordinary shares 20p higher to 39p and the "A" 12p better to 32p.

At that level the Rascal terms value Decca at £70m. Serious discussions were held between Rascal and Decca for about a week before Sir Edward recommended the terms to shareholders last Friday.

New consumer credit rules on advertising due in October

By Robin Young
Consumer Affairs Correspondent

From October 6 advertisements and quotations in relation to consumer credit and hire purchase facilities will have to show the total charge for credit expressed as an annual percentage rate.

This requirement, intended to assist consumers in comparing one credit offer with another, is the principal provision in new orders or regulations under the 1974 Consumer Credit Act which were laid before Parliament yesterday.

It will be an offence to convey information in an advertisement offering credit which is in any material sense false or misleading. Advertisements for the supply of goods or services on credit which are not also available for cash will be banned.

The regulations divide consumer credit advertisements into three categories. In simple advertisements no indication that credit is available beyond the name or occupation of the advertiser will be permitted.

Intermediate advertisements containing basic information about credit facilities available will also have to state whether security is required and indicate what quotations are available on request.

If a cash price is quoted in intermediate advertisements the annual percentage rate of the total credit charge will also have to be shown.

Full advertisements will contain the full range of information relating to the agreements

offered. For hire purchase it would be necessary to show the cash price, the total amount payable on credit terms, the annual percentage rate, the frequency and number of payments, and the amount of the payments.

Quotations for regulated consumer credit agreements will have to disclose all the relevant details required in full advertisements.

The regulations will not apply to mortgage lending by local authorities or building societies. Other exemptions include advertisements relating to monthly account credit, insurance policies on mortgages, properties, and certain consumer hire agreements with statutory undertakings.

An order effective from April 28 adds to the list of agreements exempted from provisions of the Consumer Credit Act, and regulations which will force on the same date alter the method by which the total charge for credit and the annual percentage rate are to be calculated.

The Office of Fair Trading is preparing literature to explain the regulations, which will be available from local authority trading standards departments. A briefing note will be issued by the OFT this week, and those wishing to be placed on the mailing list should write to the OFT, Government Buildings, Broadway Avenue, Acton, London, W3 7BB.

There is widespread concern in the credit industry about the effect the new regulations may have. Annual percentage rates that will have to be shown in advertisements would range as high as 1,600 per cent for some short-term unsecured loans currently offered.

Excise appeal adds to lingerie company's troubles VAT fight spoils Rosgill's party

What way of making a living looks as easy as taking sweets off a child but is as hard as breeding elephants? If the story of Rosgill Holdings is any guide, one answer is selling Pippa-Dee lingerie at parties to bored housewives.

In the words of Rosgill's prospectus issued as long ago as 1972 when Industrial and Commercial Finance Corporation brought the group to the stock market: "Pippa-Dee sells through a party plan method. This is a form of retail selling where customers purchase at a party in the relaxed atmosphere of a private house."

The idea sounds good but Rosgill's history of mishaps is bad. Indeed, it can only hope with Lowell that "the misfortunes hardest to bear are those which never come."

The latest arrival is a contest with the Commissioners of Customs and Excise. This autumn they will probably take to the Court of Appeal a case lost last August before a value-added tax tribunal.

The squabble is about the way Rosgill recompenses its "hostesses". These women hold parties, make tea and, it is hoped, sell underwear.

Rosgill usually offers them its clothing at a discount, but a discount on what? The women want their VAT which at a stroke went from 8 per cent to 15 per cent last June.

Meanwhile the jump in VAT struck down pre-tax profits from £720,000 to £483,000 in the 26 weeks to December 31, and although the gross interim dividend stays at 1.07p a share, prospects for some months are bleak. Rosgill is, incidentally, one of the first retailers to report officially on the run-up to Christmas.

But Rosgill's mishaps started much earlier. In two of the past 71 years it has lost money, and in three of them paid no dividend. It has never been profitable since its part, and there have been big changes in management, personnel and top management. The shares fell 5p to 22p on the latest news. The offer for sale which closed on November 30, 1972 was at 82p.

Peter Wainwright

PRICE CHANGES

Rises

Blackburn Miners 48c to 49c
Blarney Gold 67c to 68c
First Castle 5p to 5p
Grosvell 60c to 60c
Howard & W 2p to 2p

Falls

Ass Book 10p to 10p
Booker McCoin 10p to 10p
Castelfield 7p to 7p
Fedens 2p to 2p
Fogarty E. 5p to 5p

Marleval Con 40c to 40c
Morgan Edwards 25p to 25p
Santur 75c to 75c
SA Land 51p to 51p
Wardle E. 51p to 51p

Henderson K. 18p to 18p
Lindford 8p to 8p
Manch Liners 5p to 5p
Rosgill Hides 5p to 5p
Tomkins F. H. 1p to 1p

THE POUND

	Bank buys	Bank sells
Australia S	2.09	2.10
Austria Sch	29.50	29.50
Belgium Fr	67.50	67.50
Canada \$	2.67	2.68
Denmark Kr	12.63	12.63
Finland Mk	8.70	8.70
France Fr	9.42	9.42
Germany DM	4.00	4.00
Hong Kong \$	11.15	11.15
Ireland Pd	1.095	1.095
Italy Lira	1935.00	1935.00
Japan Yen	551.00	551.00
Netherlands Gld	4.50	4.50

	Bank buys	Bank sells
Norway Kr	11.43	11.43
Portugal Esc	118.00	118.00
South Africa Rd	2.00	2.00
Spain Pta	165.00	165.00
Sweden Kr	9.27	9.27
Switzerland Fr	3.42	3.42
USA \$	2.50	2.50
Yugoslavia Dnr	52.00	52.00

ATTENTION!

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A.C. Leasing Ltd., Tricorn House, Five Ways, Birmingham, B16 8TP
(We regret no telephone enquiries can be accepted)

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EIB lending last year up to £2,048m

The European Investment Bank, the EEC's long term finance institution, rounded off a three-year period of rapid expansion by increasing lending by 40 per cent last year to 3,071 million units of account (£2,048m).

Lending to Britain nearly doubled to £554m from £286m in 1978, lifting Britain's share of EIB financing to 33 per cent from 22 per cent the year before.

However M Yves le Portz, the bank's chairman, has told a press conference in Luxembourg that lending in 1980 is likely to grow at a less rapid pace.

Liaohu Oil output up

Production at the Liaohu oil field in north-east China has reached five million tonnes of crude oil and 1,700 million cubic metres of gas a year, the Peking People's Daily reports.

Zimbabwe air service

Air Zimbabwe Rhodesia is to start a twice weekly Boeing 707 service to London from April 2, according to Mr Brian Stringer, the chairman of AZR in Salisbury.

44,000m franc boost

The Belgian government, trade unions and employers have approved a national streamlining plan for the steel industry which involves spending 44,000m francs (about £682m) over the next five years. The unions have agreed to reduce the workforce by several thousand between now and 1990.

New York solvent

Mr Roger Altman, United States Treasury Assistant Secretary, says New York City has met each of its budget goals since Federal credit assistance was first provided in 1975, and is a full year ahead of schedule with its fiscal year 1981 projection for a real budget balance.

Rhodesian mines

Rhodesian mining production could exceed a record figure of \$845m (about £270m) for 1979, according to Mr Michael Crowood, the Rhodesian Secretary for Mines.

Leading manufacturer stops production in face of high supply costs

'Killing' prices halt rubber factory

A depressed market, soaring feedstock prices and cheap imports have combined to force International Synthetic Rubber (ISR) to halt output of its main product, styrene-butadiene rubber, used mainly in tyres.

Mr Donald Bennett, the chairman, explained yesterday that production at the company's main plant at Rythe, Hampshire, would not be resumed until suppliers reduced the "killing" prices charged for butadiene.

"I am sure we shall get what we want. The suppliers (they include ICI, BP Chemicals and Esso Chemical) will see reason", he said. Meanwhile, 100 of the company's 900 workers normally directly involved in rubber production are being employed on maintenance and other tasks. Mr Bennett said that his company was now being asked to pay more than £130 a tonne for butadiene, the main feedstock, against £280 a tonne last year. Yet in the United States, butadiene was being offered by the same suppliers at about £230 a tonne, before freight charges.

Encouraged by this advantage, United States rubber exports to Western Europe have started to climb, from 15,000 tonnes in 1978 to an estimated 25,000 tonnes last year. Present estimates suggest the

total will be 40,000 tonnes in 1980. This squeeze on market and costs comes at a time when the industry is struggling with the longer-term problems of over-capacity.

The biggest outlet for synthetic rubbers, whose share of total rubber consumption seems temporarily to have stabilised at about two-thirds, is the tyre industry.

This, however, has undergone a transformation. The radial has replaced the cross-ply. It lasts twice as long and, for technical reasons, uses a slightly higher proportion of natural rubber. Consequently, demand for synthetic rubber has not continued to grow as expected.

Mr Bennett believes styrene-butadiene rubber capacity in Western Europe is about 1.1 million tonnes a year. Actual consumption over the past three years has, however, remained static at about 670,000 tonnes. Of this, some 150,000 tonnes is imported—a growing proportion of it from the United States.

In Britain, the story is similar. Synthetics account for about 65 per cent of total rubber consumption, of around 460,000 tonnes a year. Synthetic rubber capacity (mainly styrene-butadiene, polybutadiene, butyl and neoprene) is nearly 550,000 tonnes. Mr Bennett believes that,

in recent years, only 60 per cent of the capacity has been used.

The industry is dominated by ISR, the European market leader which, at its Rythe and Grangemouth plants, has a total capacity of 370,000 tonnes.

The rest of the market is shared by Revertex, BP Chemicals, Dow Chemicals, Du Pont (United Kingdom), Esso, Chemical and Bayer.

ISR, a private company, is owned by a consortium comprising the tyre companies Dunlop, Goodyear, Firestone, Uniroyal, BTR, Michelin and Avon. These take a large proportion of ISR's output.

The Rythe styrene-butadiene plant has been operating at only 60 per cent loading, and Mr Bennett said yesterday that he believed some of the consortium might themselves be buying cheap rubber from American sources.

ISR made a loss before tax in 1977 of £2.5m, but recovered sufficiently to make a small profit in 1979. Mr Bennett said that he expected to make a little profit in 1980, if it was not swallowed up in prices paid to feedstock suppliers.

John Huxley

BL campaign playing down patriotic line

By Clifford Webb
Midlands Industrial Correspondent

BL's controversial "Buy British" campaign is only two weeks old and already there is evidence of a subtle change in emphasis. Sir Michael Edwards' direct appeal to motorists for good old-fashioned patriotism when buying their next car is now being soft-pedalled.

Instead BL is introducing the slogan "The Best of British Buys" with the intention of spotlighting the bonuses available to those who buy "truly British" cars.

A BL spokesman said yesterday: "Nobody in their right mind is going to buy products in a patriotic basis alone. But if the controversy over an appeal to patriotism persuades motorists to visit our showrooms out of curiosity, they will find that our cars are now far better in quality, contain more extras than many of the imports and are being sold at very competitive prices."

"Foreign car owners, who went foreign during the early years of the import boom and then did not bother to look at the home offering again, are our prime targets."

A £2m national campaign is being backed by local advertising, and is being shared by the cost of the local campaign with "Drive the Flag" car stickers on their way to

showrooms. If only a proportion of the five million people who drive BL cars can be persuaded to take them it could make quite an impact at little cost.

Incentives are also being offered to dealers to sell as much stock as possible, even if it means accepting a drop in profit margins during the initial stages of the campaign.

A four-band incentive points scheme offers a refund from the factory at the end of the campaign. Each car is given a number of points depending on how well it has been selling. For instance, the Mini is in points demand that it gets a nil points rating. On the other hand, the Marina 1700 gets 10 points and the Princess 30 points.

The payment per point increases as dealers sell more cars and progresses from band one to band four. The top payment is £5 a point—for each Princess sold in band four, the dealer receives £150.

Dealers and management alike are worried about the public's reaction to the company's poor sales performance this month.

Mr Brian Ellison, director of Wadham Stringer's car division, a major BL outlet, said: "For the past couple of weeks we have been enjoying the impact of the 'Buy British' campaign and it is a tremendous thing. This is the best thing Michael Edwards has ever done for the dealers."

New £100 personal computer is unveiled

By Kenneth Owen
Technology Editor

Mr Clive Sinclair of Sinclair Research, Cambridge, yesterday unveiled his latest innovation—a personal microcomputer that sells for just under £100.

This does not include a video display, because the unit plugs into the aerial socket of any television set. Neither does it include a conventional cassette recorder which is used to store and feed in programs. But the basic microcomputer, Mr Sinclair claims, is one-quarter the price of any comparable machine on the market.

Mr Sinclair is well-known for his pioneering work in the fields of pocket calculators and miniature television, and has a record of technological ingenuity which goes back to a matchbox-sized radio set many years ago.

His commercial results have been less enthusiastically received. Sinclair Radionics, a subsidiary company of the National Enterprise Board, made a pre-tax loss of £1.9m in 1978.

Last August the NEB sold the calculator and existing miniature television interests of Sinclair Radionics to Binatone, and Mr Sinclair set up Sinclair Research to pursue development of the microcomputer, a flat-



Mr Clive Sinclair: The new ZX80 personal computer is the first product to be launched by Sinclair Research since its formation last September.

tube television display, a novel form of electric motor and a new electronic instrument.

The ZX80 microcomputer announced yesterday is the first product of Sinclair Research. Kit versions will be available next month from Science of Cambridge, another Sinclair company, at £79.95; and complete versions should be obtainable in March at £99.95.

Though the early miniature television models contributed to the heavy losses of Sinclair Radionics, work is continuing on the envisaged flat-screen version.

Closure of 20 training centres approved

By David Felton
Labour Reporter

Cuts in the Manpower Services Commission's training schemes, which could mean the closure of up to 20 skill centres and annexes, have been approved in principle.

Despite widespread opposition from Civil Service unions, which urged the commission to defy the Government's instructions to reduce staff, the rationalisation of skill centres will go ahead.

A final decision on which centres are to be closed will be taken in March, when the commission will try to reach its target of shedding 520 employees, many of them instructors at the centres, and Welsh union chairman, said yesterday: "Rationalization is necessary and right. These proposals look to the future."

But of course it means reducing provision in certain localities and has to be carried out with due care and consideration for everyone affected. The timing is important, too, and that is why we shall be consulting before final decisions."

Consultations will take place with the Scottish and Welsh commissions, district manpower committees and local groups so that closures can be phased to take into account any major redundancies in prospect.

The commission's plans are for 12 complete closures of skill centres or annexes, with another eight closed centres being replaced by new establishments. The commission argues that where centres are not directly replaced there will still be training facilities in the locality. Union leaders say the closures will seriously affect industry, with small businesses which cannot afford in-house training being particularly hard hit.

They add that some workers will not be able to afford to travel long distances to their nearest centre, and point out that many of the closures planned are in areas of high unemployment such as south Wales, the west of Scotland and Cumbria.

The list of centres and annexes advanced for possible closure falls into two categories: (i) units which would be replaced by new and reorganized skillcentres: Hillington annex, Dudley, Enfield skillcentre and annex, Kidbrook annex, Poplar, Plymouth annex, Coventry annex.

Units which would not be directly replaced but for which alternative provision in the area or region would be available: Skillcentres—Dunbar, Glasgow, Darlington, Llanelli, Annexe—Sheffield, Leeds, Telford, Tremorfa, Treforest, Blaenau Gwent.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Maintaining balance of UK's sugar supplies

From Mr I. Smith

Sir, The announcement that Tate and Lyle may have to close another sugar refinery has far-reaching implications for Britain's future sugar supplies. Further closure would mean insufficient refining capacity to give effect to the undertaking, given by successive governments, for continuing access for 1.3 million tons of cane sugar from developing Commonwealth countries under the terms of the Lomé Convention.

A shift in the balance of Britain's sugar supplies in favour of domestic beet sugar would seem to underlie the Government's opposition to the European Commission's proposal to cut sugar production quotas by 10 per cent. It is argued that this would adversely affect output, employment and the balance of payments. But Britain has failed to fulfil its existing quotas, and it is difficult to see how cuts in paper quotas could result in the closure of steel factories in the loss of 2,500 jobs as the British Sugar Corporation claims.

Furthermore, it is far from certain that domestic sugar production would expand to the level of existing quotas. The rate of return on capital for sugar beet has fallen relative to that of competing cereal crops. An important factor in this has been an improvement in cereal yields of about 2 per cent per year whereas sugar beet yields have shown little improvement in recent years. As this trend is likely to continue the expansion in the beet acreage may slow down, or even cease, unless there is an improvement in the price of beet relative to that for cereals, which seems unlikely.

Even if domestic sugar production could be expanded to the level of existing quotas, the variability in sugar beet yields must raise serious doubts about the reliability of such supplies. It could lead ultimately, to growing dependence on imports of European beet sugar with no obvious benefit to the balance of payments.

Should the correct policy should be to maintain the present balance in Britain's sugar supplies and to support the European Commission's efforts to reduce the Community's sugar surplus.

Yours faithfully,
IAN SMITH,
Department of Economics,
University of Newcastle,
Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 7RU,
January 21.

Cuts threat to British Council's exports role

From Mr John D. Tucker

Sir, In the present economic climate the urgent need to reduce public expenditure must be accepted and it is recognized that the Government is trying out its commitment to a multi-faceted approach in maintaining a proper balance of essential and important services.

In this situation there is the danger that in making "across the board" cuts some very important services are curtailed or discontinued for relatively small savings in expenditure. It is in this context that there is a serious concern over the proposed cuts in the budget of the British Council and the serious impact these will have on the essential information and liaison role played by its media department and in particular, its invaluable aid to British exports, by creating the right atmosphere for our overseas trade and services. This important activity cannot, however, be measured in financial terms.

We are now planning the eighth International Broadcasting Convention to be held in Brighton on September 20-23. One of the prime objectives of this biennial convention, first held in 1967, is to assist British industry to export United Kingdom broadcasting equipment, services and expertise worldwide.

Since the IBC was launched it has seen a continuing growth in status, size and success and is now established as one of the world's international market places for the latest broadcasting equipment and services.

As we have seen from the Government's change of mind over the proposed cut in the BBC External Services grant ministers are not insensitive to public opinion and factual logical cases. It is to be hoped that wisdom will prevail also in the case of the British Council.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN D. TUCKER,
Chairman, Management Committee,
International Broadcasting Convention,
Institution of Electrical Engineers,
Savoy Place,
London WC2R 0BL,
January 21.

Engineering education

From Dr R. G. Carter

Sir, I have read with great interest the letter from Professor J. M. Alexander on the subject of engineering education (January 23). I and my colleagues drafted a similar letter in response to your article. However, we subsequently discovered that Mr Sapper's comments were not intended to preclude changes of the type advocated by Professor Alexander and the letter was never sent.

Professor Alexander has not told us why it has not been possible to introduce changes of the sort he describes. It cannot be due to the constraints of a three-year course, because here, at Lancaster, we already teach some of the material mentioned. Perhaps the real reason is to be found in a remark made to me by an engineering department at another university. The main obstacle to change, he said, lay in the entrenched attitudes of his staff.

I agree with Professor Alexander in supporting the Finnis proposals for improvement in engineering education. Many of these proposals indeed have their origin in papers written by my colleague Professor M. J. French. There is a great risk, however, that these reforms will be carried out in a way that will greatly diminish their value. It is already rumoured that certain prestigious institutions are expecting to be allowed to

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I agree with Professor Alexander in supporting the Finnis proposals for improvement in engineering education. Many of these proposals indeed have their origin in papers written by my colleague Professor M. J. French. There is a great risk, however, that these reforms will be carried out in a way that will greatly diminish their value. It is already rumoured that certain prestigious institutions are expecting to be allowed to

teach M.Eng. courses only. The risk is that it is some institutions that staff attitudes are most entrenched. An engineering course of the type proposed by Finnis cannot be produced by grafting a bit of engineering practice on to an existing course.

The Finnis report has revealed the extent of industrial experience among university teachers of engineering. It has not, however, revealed the nature of that experience. There is an enormous difference between experience gained in a research laboratory and that gained in a factory. Exposure to the realities of engineering design and production is an education which cannot readily be obtained in any other way. It is this experience of just this sort which is often lacking in our universities. There is indeed one very prestigious university in which many members of the engineering staff are professionally qualified as physicists, not as engineers.

If these changes in the education of engineers are to be of real value it is vital that the task of teaching the best students should be entrusted to those departments which can demonstrate that they have a staff qualified by their attitudes and experience to do it. Yours faithfully,
R. G. CARTER,
University of Lancaster,
Department of Engineering,
Bailrigg,
Lancaster, LA1 4YR,
January 23.

million employees in the private sector are contracted into the state scheme, I am sure that your readers were perplexed by Mr Pich's statement that the proposed Association of Contracted in Employers would represent only a minority of those employed in the private sector. I certainly am.

I agree with Mr Sibly, Assistant General Manager (Pensions), Legal & General Assurance Society, when he says that the elimination of the contracting out option would not reduce the amount needed to pay the benefits now due, but that it has an effect on the way the cost is divided between different employers and employees.

I would add that the extent to which the option is exercised also determines the proportions of cost borne from general taxation, through the Treasury's pension fund, from National Insurance contributions. The contracting out of

Efforts made to stimulate minerals search

From Mr G. A. Schneidman

Sir, The correspondence initiated by Sir Kingsley Dunham and Sir Peter Kent "Need for law to aid exploration into Britain's mineral resources" (January 9) has greatly interested me as I have been associated with various aspects of this industry for almost half a century. Sir Peter, with great respect, is not a hard-rock miner. His distinguished services have been given to the petroleum industry, but his support in a common interest is nonetheless welcome, particularly as the oil industry has for some time been evincing interest in the activities of its older brother.

Sir Kingsley, my friend of long standing, must surely have had his tongue firmly in cheek, because he is well aware of the determined efforts which have been, and are still being, made by major mining finance houses in this country.

I recall in particular, and in the circumstances of the pre-war depression, the Greeneside, Halkyn and Millicote enterprises. These were not stimulated by government subsidy or promises of taxation relief, but by hard-headed mining men who believed in them as financially sound investments.

Equally hard-headed (not to mention hard-boiled!) mining ventures have in more recent years made, and are still making, substantial investments in exploring for potential which unquestionably exist.

Mr Lomax's letter (January 23), with which I am in general agreement, understates the situation. Commencing with the Ministry of Munitions report (C.D. 1918) and the work made by Sir Lionel Phillips, there have been at least five reports on the subject by committees appointed by government. All have been filed and forgotten, except by a few such as the undersigned.

The fact, Sir, is not taxation but the Department of the Environment. Yours faithfully,
G. A. SCHNEIDMAN,
Geological and Mining Consultant,
4 Ashworth Mansions,
Elgin Avenue,
London W9 1LW,
January 24.

Product liability and animals

From the President, the British Veterinary Association

Sir, In his letter to *The Times* (January 8) David Sharpe, the President of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain makes the point that, in the field of human medicine, product liability as detailed in current proposals, will be both a misnomer and to the detriment of the patient. This is equally true of veterinary medicine.

Carried to the extremes suggested, the proposals will inevitably lead to the practice of defensive medicine—that is, carrying out unnecessary diagnostic tests in order to cover possible difficulties that could arise in future. This is to the financial disadvantage of the client and to the physical disadvantage of the animal patient.

In the veterinary field we face even greater impositions of record keeping than do our medical colleagues. At least each human patient has a name, what of the 20,000 chickens or broiler house under treatment with a food additive?

In order to prevent future claims against the product in use we would be required to deliver homilies of such length and complexity that our clients, unless possessed of an extremely attentive mind or a degree in pharmacology, would become increasingly confused and uncertain. It is this confusion and uncertainty that we strive to dispel by assuming, with our professional knowledge, responsibility for our action.

There is every reason to compensate the owners of animals who have suffered loss by product defect. If this defect is remedied course already exists: if the defect is outwith this category there is good reason for compensation to be available from a central fund.

The imposition of the suggested controls on my profession will be to the detriment of the welfare of the animals we seek to help. Yours sincerely,
DIXON GUNN, President,
The British Veterinary Association,
7 Mansfield Street,
London W1M 0AT,
January 16.

Arithmetic of state pensions

From Mr Raymond Nottage

Sir, In commenting (January 18) on my article about the cost of the contracting out option in the state pensions scheme Mr Pich, chairman of the National Association of Pension Funds, says: "It does not make sense to discuss the merits of a modicum of common sense, to appreciate that any consequent increase in state contribution rates today must be offset by lower rates in future years." This, I submit, is not a self-evident proposition, and Mr Pich should tell us:

(i) the date when he expects the lower contribution rates to come into effect;

(ii) the extent of the compensating reductions he then foresees and;

(iii) the real rate of return on investment on which he bases his replies to (i) and (ii).

I am sorry if these questions require Mr Pich to apply his mind to figures. Since 12 million of the 17

million employees in the private sector are contracted into the state scheme, I am sure that your readers were perplexed by Mr Pich's statement that the proposed Association of Contracted in Employers would represent only a minority of those employed in the private sector. I certainly am.

I agree with Mr Sibly, Assistant General Manager (Pensions), Legal & General Assurance Society, when he says that the elimination of the contracting out option would not reduce the amount needed to pay the benefits now due, but that it has an effect on the way the cost is divided between different employers and employees.

I would add that the extent to which the option is exercised also determines the proportions of cost borne from general taxation, through the Treasury's pension fund, from National Insurance contributions. The contracting out of

10 million employees will have the effect in 1980/81 of reducing the income from contributions by £450m and of increasing the Treasury supplement, and hence the public sector borrowing requirement, by that amount. This feature of the scheme will not endear it to the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

I note that Mr Sibly does not comment on my calculation that the net rebate on contributions for contracted out employees in the next tax year will amount to only £155 per employee against the £300 per employee that will have to be found by the employer-based pension schemes to fund the liabilities they choose to retain. If I am right, the combined action of the contracting out employers must surely constitute one of the biggest financial follies of modern times.

RAYMOND NOTTAGGE,
Refinery Club,
Pall Mall,
London SW1 5EW,
January 21.

Westland Aircraft Limited

Extracts from the Statement by the Chairman,
The Rt. Hon. Lord Aldington, PC, KCMG, CBE, DSO.

I hope that the results of the year, both in the profit and in the sales which have been achieved throughout the Group, will give proper encouragement to our shareholders and our employees. A comparison between 1978 and 1979 made before exceptional items and after interest shows that the achievement of 1979 was one of consolidation of our base for the future, rather than a year of real growth. We have fought our way out of the difficulties of two large contracts. Although output of helicopters improved, we did not achieve all the deliveries of them and some other products which we had planned. It follows that the profit is not as high as it could have been. Moreover, it was a year when an important part of our turnover had to be taken up with those Lynx helicopters and hovercraft for which heavy provisions had been made and from which no profit could arise. But, taking the Group as a whole, all concerned have a right to feel that these results show an improvement in efficiency and show their strong will to succeed.

We have, however, learned some important lessons, which have yet to be applied, to reduce the costs of development and of production, to improve our performance in delivering to time, and to ensure that every part of the Group lives up to the high quality standards for which the Group has earned a high reputation on its principal activities. This we will do; and we will be helped by the improving climate of industrial relations.

The width of our business and the diversity of its products is growing as a result of decisions taken in recent years. We now have to ensure that we reap a proper harvest through efficient project management. I know that our Chief Executive is concentrating much personal effort on production efficiency and on training at all levels of management.

During the year we had successes in the helicopter market. New orders were received from the Royal Navy and from the Federal German Navy and negotiations are at an advanced stage with two overseas customers. We also had the advantage of good spare orders.

Work on developing the WG.30, a transport version of the Lynx, has continued on course and a welcome amount of interest has been shown in many parts of the world.

The next stage in the Sea King replacement project, so important to naval capability in the late 80's, and to helicopter transport generally, is to

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Insecurity in securities

Very high trading volume on Wall Street, which some analysts are hoping will be a quarter higher this year, is doing wonders for the share prices of the leading United States securities companies, including the over-the-counter dealers. After their weak showing in the 1976-78 period, the quoted firms came back to favour last year in a big way.

And already this year shares in Merrill Lynch are a quarter higher and in Shearson Loeb Rhoades more than a third on expectations of much higher profits.

The strength of the United States stock market, however, is doing nothing to alleviate the long-term problems that have been plaguing the United States securities business for the best part of a decade. Unlike their United Kingdom counterparts, who still seem to be putting most of their faith in mergers to pull them through the difficult years ahead, rather than playing the angles by going for more fundamental structural changes, Wall Street firms have already tried that route.

The recent gyrations in markets have also done little to bolster their confidence, since it has only helped expose the inadequacy of their capital bases for dealing in such uncertain markets.

Increasingly, then, survival has been seen in terms of diversification over the past three years, when there has also been the added pressure of the moves to off-floor trading on the United States exchanges.

More and more the "financial superstore" approach of Merrill Lynch is seen as the only real answer. Firms have expanded into life assurance in a big way, as well as into the commodity markets, and they are more and more coming up against the commercial banks as they try to move into their traditional activities as well, and expand their investment banking interests.

The fundamental problem remains that all the moves away from pure securities trading are requiring them to act as principals rather than agents, and apart from Merrill Lynch, whose \$740m capital base is more than three times that of its nearest rival Shearson Loeb Rhoades, these other firms simply do not have the resources to expand in like fashion.

The latest ruse of the NYSE to stem the tide has been to try to grab some of the commodities action from Chicago with the introduction of trading in financial futures from April this year. The voluntary moratorium two years ago on options trading is also expected to come to an end within the next month. If Wall Street is any guide, London brokers are only just starting to see the really tough times.

Just how tough depends on a variety of factors, not least those highlighted in a new survey of the British securities industry commissioned by stockbrokers Grieverson, Grant, Twenty-four institutions were invited to give their views on the prospects for the industry. The message which emerges seems to be that institutions are dissatisfied with the way the Stock Exchange is approaching delicate subjects such as dual-capacity trading and fixed commissions (the future of which will be decided in two or three years' time by the Restrictive Practices Court) and want to be more fully involved.

Understandably so, since institutional investors have gained such a powerful position in the market, but the report is less than satisfactory in that it contains a series of slashing attacks (and some commendations) without offering any answers. It is all very well—and absolutely reasonable—that institutions should demand some contingency planning from the Stock Exchange should the Court rule to dismantle the present market structure, but institutional thinking will have to be constructive and bear in mind that there is heavy pressure from some quarters for institutions to put their own house in order. The Wilson Committee, for instance, should have plenty to say on that subject.

Reed International

Fit for the recession

Reed International has proved the perfect patient responding magnificently to the drastic surgery of the last couple of years. The new found vigour is evident in pre-tax profits up 27 per cent to £80m at the nine months period with most of the improvement

due to a £14m drop in the interest burden to £9.8m.

At the operating level, however, the performance looks more mundane and begs the question as to just how severe the profits relapse is going to be when Reed's remaining activities meet the recession. United Kingdom profits actually slipped a shade in the third quarter edging ahead to £61m for the nine months with the squeeze on margins in paper-making wiping out much of the boost from newspapers and publishing.

Meanwhile, profits from the savagely pruned overseas operations are only a shade down, reflecting a powerful turnaround by the Canadian operations including Dryden (now sold) and the remaining Quebec newspaper mill.

Reed is still bent on selling the Quebec mill and thus completing its withdrawal from the activities which brought it so near to the brink a couple of years ago. But booming conditions in the American market at least cut out the necessity of a "fire" sale.

The shares up 13p to 207p, however, seem to be putting a little too much store in hopes of £105m pre-tax for the full-year for a fully-ratified p/e of 41 and a 20 per cent dividend boost making a yield of 7.1 per cent.

Next year publishing will be under pressure, there is not much relief in sight for United Kingdom paper-making while building and DIY products—Reed's third remaining United Kingdom arm—are not exactly recession proof.

Profits could drop as low as £70m pre-tax. Even though new-found balance sheet strength—bearing has dropped to 37 per cent and the group has plenty of free cash—should enable a more flexible Reed to ride out a recession the medium-term outlook is cloudy enough to suggest a more cautious rating.

Trident Television

Strike victim

Even with a fairly solid profits record to back them up, television contractors have never been a stockmarket favourite, usually having to rely on their income attractions for support. Last autumn's technicians' strike only seemed to confirm how vulnerable earnings could be to any interruption in advertising revenue, at least for those not as well diversified as Granada or Associated Communications.

Trident Television has been unlucky in that with a September year-end, its results cover a full two months of the 11 week strike while those with a later reporting period, following the more than one third rise in advertising revenue in the November-December period, will manage to hide most of the scars.

With revenue losses of £13m and £750,000 in wasted programme costs, Trident reckons the dispute to have cost some £1.2m from profits leaving the full year, after earlier hopes of perhaps an increase of a tenth, down a sixth at £7.5m with the second half more than a half lower at only £2.7m. Elsewhere the group has done rather better with the Windsor Safari Park operation now washing its faster and the rest of the leisure side doing better.

The move into United States film distribution has involved some start-up costs but the overall result is that the non-television interests have shown useful growth from £1.9m to £2.3m to offset some of the near £2m decline in television contracting to £5.2m.

For the current year a rate card rise of 15 per cent already announced is to be followed by another 25 per cent increase which will go some way towards compensating for a dull year so far as advertising revenue is concerned and the cost pressures from the technicians' settlement.

Trident is going some way towards fulfilling its commitment on the dividend by reducing the promised cover from 2 to 1.6 in view of the profits downturn, where the yield at 53p is 9.3 per cent although things could have looked a little better if it had taken extraordinary losses of £516,000—mostly due to currency movements—further down. But at least its franchises seem more secure than some of the other contractors.

Donald Macintyre on the mood in two industries where thousands of jobs are at risk

Why the Welsh are on the war-path

A banner borne by miners on the march through Cardiff's city centre on Monday morning summed up the original purpose of the protest. "For sale," read the banner, "one South Wales coalfield. Apply agents: the British Steel Corporation."

The banner eloquently expresses the extent to which these two primary state industries are interlocked at the heart of the South Wales economy and the effect that the BSC's drastic plans for scaling down production in the region will have on coal output and indirectly on the rest of Welsh industry.

The spectre of unemployment arising from the corporation's intention to shed 11,300 jobs in Llanwern and Port Talbot and to increase its imports of coking coal to the region, may well dominate tomorrow's talks between the Nationalised Industries Committee of the TUC and senior Cabinet ministers.

The national union leaders are likely to point out to Sir Geoffrey Howe, Chancellor of the Exchequer, and his colleagues that while they have persuaded the Wales TUC to

defer its call for a "general strike" in the Principality until March 10 they are under intense pressure to secure a stay of execution of BSC policy before that date, whatever their reservations about the tactics of union officials in Wales.

On Monday, as 15,000 trade unionists made their way through Cardiff's city centre, Mr Peter Davey, the chief executive of South Glamorgan Council, was remarking to the South Wales standing conference on regional policy that the figure of 21,000 "knock on" redundancies which would result from the steel cutbacks was probably a "serious underestimate".

Such figures—and some union leaders believe that the eventual loss of jobs could be 100,000—may not add weight to either side in the argument over BSC's overall strategy. But they do indicate a growing consensus in the region about what the effects of it will be.

Partly basing their view on National Coal Board estimates that output will have to be cut back by between 2.4 million and 2.8 million tons, regional

miners' leaders expect that the steel cuts go ahead the board will plan for the summer with plans for the closure of at least 11, and possibly a further 10, steel-making pits. Close to the centre of their argument is the issue of imported coking coal.

The corporation has not officially denied or confirmed that it intends to increase its imports of coking coal by 1.2 million tons a year, much of which would be expected to go to South Wales where 1 million tons is already imported.

The American and Australian coking coal imported for Port Talbot is about £10 a ton cheaper than its domestically produced equivalent. But the low level of subsidy for British-produced coal compared with that for European competitors is illustrated by figures put before the Wales TUC last month. These show that the cost of coking coal per ton was £24 in Belgium, £14 in France, £11 in Germany and £1 in the United Kingdom.

It is against this background that Mr Lawrence Dwyer, general secretary of the National Union

of Mineworkers, was applauded at Monday's rally when he said that there were sufficient reserves of coking coal in Britain to supply all BSC's needs if the same level of subsidy was paid here as in other EEC countries. The miners say that 75 per cent of those reserves are in South Wales.

To show the indirect effect on other industries the same Wales TUC document attempted to break down coal board expenditure under headings which included: payments to British Rail, £35m; civil engineering, £15.9m; and materials, including wood from the Forestry Commission, £3.7m.

It is not only private enterprises that would be affected. According to Mr Emyr Williams, South Wales president of the NUM: "People forget that many of the effects will be on the public sector."

Mr Williams even criticises as too modest the Wales TUC demand for a two-year moratorium on cuts to allow a review. The union, he says, should be actively seeking compensation rather than passive resignation. Despite his passionate

support for the steelworkers' cause Mr Williams believes that the pay issue may have overshadowed the threat to jobs. "Survival," he says, "is even more important than wages."

While a settlement of the steel strike would on the one hand further stimulate the campaign for jobs by carrying at least some commitment to cutbacks, Welsh Union leaders privately admit their doubts whether the steelworkers could be brought out again once they have gone back to work.

And it is open to question whether unions like the railwaymen's, which brought out 8,500 members in the railways and docks on Monday, could meet a similar response for an indefinite strike.

But the Wales TUC, with the miners at the fore, has stretched itself to prevent Wales becoming what Mr Williams described as a "non-industrial nation". Tomorrow's meeting will give ministers a foretaste of a political head-ache likely to grow much more troublesome rather than diminish.

Can Turkey regain financial respectability?

Turkey is on the brink of being welcomed back—if not quite with open arms—into the international financial community. The series of measures taken over the last week to restore its creditworthiness will probably do the trick, although the International Monetary Fund (IMF) is still sceptical about the government's intentions.

The first aim of the IMF measures was to regain Turkey's access to the IMF standby credit of \$250m. Special drawing rights (SDRs) which were set up last July to replace the gold standard, are now being used to finance the IMF's loan.

The IMF is not the size of the loan—which is tiny in comparison with Turkey's needs—but the signal which IMF approval would give to international banks and western governments.

Turkey has discovered to its cost over the last two years that the IMF "bill of health" has become a prerequisite for access to the world's capital markets. It was IMF agreement to a new stand-by credit last year which helped the government to head off a massive rescheduling of Turkish debts by commercial banks.

Turkey is often held up as an example of how badly wrong can be the IMF's policy of insisting on strict conditions before giving special loans to countries in acute payment difficulties. The political unrest in Turkey is then laid at the door of the hard men from the fund who have forced austerity measures on unwilling governments.

Turkey's great difficulties in meeting its debt payments, and the apparently inexorable rise in the ratio of debt servicing to export earnings, are also sometimes pointed to as the first signs of banking problems to come.

The huge surpluses of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries expected this year will have their counterparts in deficit elsewhere. Many of the middle income developing countries which have borrowed heavily from international banks over the last few years will suffer big increases in their oil bills.

They will have to turn to their creditors for help with meeting the bills. Banks which already have sizable loans at stake will find them-

selves locked in, as they are in Turkey, so the argument runs. These generalizations about Turkey raise questions about the nature of the recycling problem and the proper role of the IMF in this.

They are not concerned to maximize growth or welfare in the debtor countries but to improve the balance of payments to a point where the country can repay its loans. Naturally commercial banks feel happier lending to a country which the IMF believes is on the road to economic health.

However, recycling the Opec surpluses implies financing the corresponding deficits and allowing them to continue, at least in the medium term. In this context it makes sense for the IMF to provide money on slightly easier terms than it would otherwise do. At present it has plenty of money in its coffers but few takers among debtor countries.

The commercial banks will, however, still have to play a big part in the recycling, however uneasy they feel about increasing their risk exposure in some countries.

But for two reasons Turkey is something of a special case. First, its military and strategic importance to the West means that it is a high priority.

Secondly, the Turkish economy is in a particularly parlous stage. Inflation has soared to between 70 and 80 per cent and the exchange rate has fallen to 45 per cent of its 1978 level. This is a drastic slowdown in growth in the latter part of the 1970s and an unemployment level of about 20 per cent.

Turkey was first sent into deficit by dearer oil after current account and development last year. Since then it has piled up debts at an alarming rate. International bankers must bear some of the responsibility for Turkey's present plight.

They made money readily available in the 1970s for both short and long-term loans, all of which proved too much for the Turks to repay in time. Turkey now has about \$15,000m of outstanding debts and its ratio of debt service to exports could be as high as 45 per cent this year after being nearly a third in 1979.

Other governments and the IMF may be willing to put more money into Turkey now in the hope that the opening up of the economy to foreign investment, along with the sharp price rises for fuels and the big shock of a 33 per cent devaluation, will boost exports and hold down government borrowing and private consumption.

With debts already almost crippling the economy and slow growth and high unemployment threatening Turkey's precarious political stability, it might be much better for western governments to mount a large aid programme than to take the Turks further into the red.

Caroline Atkinson

Stopping the rot in the textile towns

John Huxley

A steady stream of politicians and industrialists has made its way down Flapper Fold Lane, Atherton, in recent months. They have been visiting the first spinning mill to be built in Lancashire for 50 years.

The importance of "Unit One" as it is called, is that it contains a Carrington Viegella. In an industry which has seen 400 mills close in the past ten years and which is now in danger of talking itself into extinction, the firm project is an attempt to stop the rot.

Mr Norman Sharrock, managing director of Carrington Viegella's yarns division, is no King Canute. He does not underestimate the threat posed by cheap imports or the immediate difficulties caused by the strength of sterling and the high cost of borrowing. But, in the longer term, the industry must prove it can deliver the goods against overseas competition.

Government "protection" or incentives, such as export trading and orderly marketing arrangements must be seen as an essential rearguard action. As Mr Cecil Parkinson, the Minister for Trade, has made clear, the industry must make use of the breathing space to reorganise.

The reorganization at Atherton has been dramatic. The 95,000 sq ft plant has replaced some 500,000 sq ft of mill space. The workforce has been reduced from 430 to fewer than 100, organized in shifts of about 14.

The highly-automated plant looks more like a computer suite than the traditional mill. Micro-wave ovens are available to heat refrigerated food introduced to facilitate continuous shift working.

Mr Sharrock says that there has been a huge improvement in productivity. Yarn production per man hour has quadrupled and there has been a substantial reduction in unit cost.

The capital-intensive strategy adopted in Unit One has by and large been accepted by the workforce. "When they were first approached, the unions responded by saying we should have invested like this many years ago," Mr Sharrock says. Wages have jumped from about £55 a week to £110 a week.

There has been several hundred redundancies and an acceptance of more flexible working. The unit is already contributing indirectly to group sales. Atherton's quarters at Carrington Viegella's yarns division are sold to its Dorna subsidiary where they are woven, dyed and made up into shawls.

It is still too early to say that the Unit One approach works. The plant is not yet running at full capacity and productivity may yet be exceeded by overseas mills. The scale of investment is enormous and the plant meets only about 15 per cent of Carrington Viegella's yarn needs.

An alternative strategy being adopted in parts of the industry is to move out of low-cost, bulk production and concentrate on high technology and high added-value output. Fothergill & Harvey, of Linsborough, established in 1848, recognized this many years ago. Following the Second World War, when respected names in the industry were trying to pick up where they left off in 1939, an elite few looked not at the present but to the future," Mr Leslie Stevens, the chief executive, explains.

The process of diversification away from traditional cotton-based products has accelerated in the last decade. Even in its industrial textiles division, which accounts for a progressively smaller share of turnover each year, there has been a swing away from fabrics which compete in large volume markets to those used in speciality areas.

Its product range—which finds outlets in user industries including aerospace, chemicals, electronics, food, leisure, packaging and transport—is sufficiently large for the company to ride out sectoral fluctuations in demand.

Such diversification brings with it a risk of becoming over-extended,

as Mr Peter Conway, one of the directors, recognizes. "The knack is not to let our research and development people run away with us. We must recognize that a time comes when losses must be cut and a product dropped."

One such innovation was three-dimensional weaving of glass-fibre. The most obvious application was for the nose-cone of aircraft. Fothergill & Harvey provided the famous "drooping" nose-cone for the Concorde but subsequently decided that future applications, elsewhere in the military field, were too limited. So, three-dimensional weaving was dropped.

Mr Stevens believes that the future of the company and its 1,100 employees lies with new and other existing lines: carbon fibre blanks and composites, anti-static and corrosion-resistant coatings, fabric roofing and fibre-reinforced plastics.

The company's output is already used in products as diverse as golf clubs and X-ray couches, armoured jackets and anti-magnetic skins to protect the hulls of submarines.

The management at Carrington Viegella Yarns and Fothergill & Harvey recognize that the painful process of rationalization and contraction must continue for some time. However, few are prepared to say there are too many unpredictable factors to throw off course even well-run businesses, as Mr Peter Cockcroft, managing director of Heatherdale Fabrics, is learning.

The company is something of a rarity at a time when there has been a rush to leave the textiles industry. It would appear to have done everything right. It has a modern, purpose-built factory at Tordmore,

and it has a high added-value product—furnishing fabrics. Its output per operative is comparable with levels elsewhere in the world and great attention has been paid to product design.

Mr Cockcroft and his father, Leo, brought to the company large sums of their own money, as well as experience gained in working in the family textiles company, John Cockcroft and Sons. In the early 1970s showed that enlightened management, good working conditions and high wages were compatible with healthy profits.

A year or two ago, though, things began to go wrong. Turnover growth has stalled at about £1.7m, and the mill is not making money. Heatherdale has been hit not so much by low-cost competition from the United States and elsewhere as the adverse movement in the value of the pound and present high interest rates. Two thirds of output is exported.

Because of its two-year production cycle, Heatherdale's finished product) the company now finds that goods are being produced at a loss.

Faced with similar problems, other textile companies have decided to call it a day. The Cockcrofts say they will not. They believe that they have obligations to the community and they cannot accept that the Government will allow the manufacturing base of the country, of which they are a part, to be destroyed.

"We have lost money before and we have turned it round. It won't be possible to make a commercial judgment on Heatherdale until the mid-1980s. By then we will have done so again."

Business Diary: Strikes while the iron is cold

The brass at the British Steel Corporation are suffering from acute loss of face. For some years past the luckless BSC has been ardently courting the Chinese in the hope of winning big contracts to advise the workers' paradise on modernizing the Chinese steel industry.

Mr Charles Villiers, BSC's chairman, himself has shown the importance which the corporation attaches to the Chinese by himself going to Peking. But a party of officials from Chinese metallurgical foundations are about to return home without visiting some of the BSC works which they came here to see. Yesterday, the group's leader, Zhou Hongli, was to have toured BSC installations at Sheffield with four of his colleagues.

Tomorrow the party was to visit the Port Talbot steelworks in South Wales, followed by a tour of the steelworks in Scotland. But the Chinese Society and the Institute of Mining and Metallurgy have been obliged to revise the scheduled programme because of the strike.

Instead, the team spent yesterday touring a library and a mines safety research establishment. Tomorrow, instead of going to Port Talbot, the study group will spend its time at the University of Aston and with the IMI.

What the Chinese make of all this, Business Diary cannot say. Tourism is tightly controlled in China, we are always told—but what of the Chinese visitors here denied the opportunity of talking to pickets in the forefront of the workers' heroic uprising against Thatcher capitalism?



"In the time it has taken you to produce one tonne of crude steel I've done the weekly wash, mended a fuse, cleaned the kitchen, made seven pounds of marmalade and four meat pies for the fridge and got your tea ready."

Fifty years ago, the steel industry was again in recession and yet again the lawyers were coming in. In 1930, however, it was a steelowner rather than a trade unionist who faced the crisis. A big shareholder in Colville's steel works in Scotland was Lord Kylsant, described as an "absentee landlord" by the BSC historian John Vaizey.

Kylsant, former Liberal MP, JP and president of the London Chamber of Commerce, was soon to be more absent than present. He got 12 months for offences in connection with a fraud in connection with a Royal Mail Steam Packet (now part of Furness Withy), said to have been prepared with "an economy of truth."

Although the Government's Welsh Development Agency has £15m to spend on creating jobs in North-east Wales as Shotton steelworks closes, the agency's new chairman is one of a group of businessmen who hope to buy a stake in the plant—perhaps saving 1,500 of the 5,500 jobs under threat.

Stephen Gray was himself once sacked from the BSC by former chairman Sir Monry Fimiston for opposing Shotton's closure. He tells Business Diary that the acquisition of a stake is still a "dream."

"It requires an investigation by an accepted and established financial agency. After that, if the numbers stand up then we are in a position to do something."

Meanwhile, the WDA and Gray do have the numbers to provide 500,000 sq ft of factory space in the Shotton-Wrexham area. The agency's advice caravan is parked inside the steelworks to help those steelmen who fancy starting their own businesses—80 have shown interest so far.

Gray's agency has been in the hope business for some time, with jobs being lost at the Ebbw Vale and East Moors steelworks. Worse could be on the way with the rundown of Llanwern and Port Talbot.

But Gray isn't misty-eyed about steel. "If we can get on with the job of diversifying industry, then the rundown could actually be good for the country. It is a question of timing. Wales is over-dependent on coal and steel, he thinks.



Norman Turner: solicitous, shy.

It does not need a long industrial memory to recall the stir caused in 1972 by the Official Solicitor when he intervened to get the three dockers freed from their imprisonment for contempt imposed by the late Industrial Relations Court.

The whippers are around that this *deus ex machina* of the time, may be needed again if the steel dispute drags on.

As it happens, the same man is still in charge, Norman Turner, now near retirement, has quietly been carrying on his job. He still scrutinises every case where someone has been imprisoned for contempt.

The main part of his work, however, is looking after the interests of those thought to be at a disadvantage in court proceedings—children, or mental patients, for instance. Turner is a different man, in which he found himself eight years ago. He would not relish taking another bow.

When on Monday an Iron and Steel Trade Federation organizer called Clive Jones said of Lord Denning: "We take our instructions from the national executive council not from some fellow with funny hair who he both gave Arthur Scargill his cue and increased the public stock of harmless pleasure."

It would be wrong, however, to assume that Lewis's remarks went down well only with trade unionists. In Sheffield, for example, the head of one of the biggest private steel-makers told Business Diary: "If you quote me, I'll deny it, but we could all be a good deal better off if the strike were allowed to spread to the private sector."

"If they can't get steel steel our customers' production lines will stop and they won't want to buy our products. That will mean higher stock financing costs for us and we'll also be forced to make lay-off payments to our workers when the strike bites."

"Now if our own workers go out we avoid the lay-off payments and the group goes into a vacuum for the duration."

Nothing could be more British than a strike, and nothing more British than the way in which, so Business Diary hears, the management at one British Steel Corporation works gave the pickets three steel shelters in which to picket. It is also rather British, it is supposed, that the shelters, being made of an increasingly precious metal, were promptly pinched. There is no suggestion that the pickets took them.

Ross Davies

Daily Mail and General Trust Limited

Statement by Viscount Rothermere, Chairman

My father died just before the Annual General Meeting in July 1976, and since the current accounting period was extended to 30th September 1979, this is the first occasion I have had the opportunity to make the Chairman's Statement in the Annual Accounts and to pay tribute to my father's work in building up your Company so successfully over the last half century.

It is therefore with pleasure that I can report to you that for the first time since 1976, the Company has achieved a profit after interest and taxation in the 18 months to September 1979 of £5,570,000.

After providing for the preference dividend the earnings for the period were 35.1p per share or 22.4p on an annual basis. Excluding the dividend from Associated Newspapers Group, net income from other sources increased in the 12 months to March 1979 by 12% over the year before, and for the 12 months to September 1979 by 20% over the previous year to September 1976.

With income from Associated Newspapers Group showing a significant increase the results for the period can therefore be viewed with some satisfaction.

Because a considerable proportion of our investment portfolio is the holding in Associated Newspapers Group, your Company has been bound by the dividend limitation regulations in consequence it has not been possible to switch increasing income into distributions as has, for example, Associated Investment Trusts who have been free from those regulations. The end of dividend limitation has meant therefore that the Board has been able to give fresh consideration to the scale of distributions to Shareholders. The total which is now

being recommended exceeds 85% of the amount available previously the amount we were permitted to distribute has been less than 75%.

During the period, Associated Newspapers Group ceased to be the Company's subsidiary. Nevertheless as you will read in the Directors' Report we shall be continuing to give additional information concerning its results and financial position, so that you can appreciate the diversified strength and successful operations of the Group.

The change of status of Associated Newspapers Group meant the reduction of some common interests, as was reported earlier in the year. The book profit arising from these and other realisations has exceeded £1 million, with an unavoidable Capital Gains Tax commitment.

As a further result of the altered relationship, the Accounts of Daily Mail and General Trust have had to be modified. Analysis of investments has at the same time been altered to expand the information available.

The last eighteen months have seen a remarkable turn round in the strength of Sterling, the progressive effect of North Sea oil on our balance of payments and the start of the loosening of government control over much of our lives. The abolition of dividend limitation and later, of Exchange Control has allowed market influences to have much greater effect on investment prices and policy. We earnestly hope that the firm measures taken by the Government will have the effect of containing inflation and reviving industry.

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Mr Ferguson Lacey in £4m Wardle bid

By Philip Robinson
Birmingham and Midlands Counties Trust, the private investment vehicle of entrepreneur Mr Graham Ferguson Lacey, has launched a £41m takeover bid for the 70 per cent of Bernard Wardle it does not already own.

The bid is pitched at 33p a share and would value the whole group of nearly £6m.

Net assets of Bernard Wardle, which processes PVC and supplies moulded plastics for the motor trade, are put in the latest balance-sheet in December, 1978, at £2.8p a share.

Birmingham and Midlands Counties Trust has built up its 29.9 per cent stake in Wardle over 14 months, paying an average price of 21p.

BMCT is being advised by merchant bankers Arbuthnot Latham (in which BMCT has a 14 per cent stake).

No reaction was available last night from Bernard Wardle or its advisers, merchant bankers Warburg, but Mr Quelch said

a meeting had taken place and the reaction from the Wardle board had been "friendly". The Board are not large shareholders. The largest single shareholder after BMCT is Norwich Union Life Insurance with a 6.68 per cent stake.

A spokesman for Mr G. Ferguson Lacey said: "I think it is virtually an agreed bid."

Profits of Bernard Wardle over the past few years have been described by some in the City as patchy. For the year to the end of November, 1978, earnings were little changed from those reached in 1974.

For the six months to the end of June last year, profits marked time around the £500,000 mark, although the then chairman Mr Derek Boothman said that the profitability achieved in the first half had continued during the third quarter.

At the offer price this would give Wardle an exit p/e ratio on the last full year's earnings of 4.1. Last night the shares gained 3p to 34p.

Plessey's final disposal

By Our Financial Staff

Electronics group Plessey has sold the last of its operations which does not fit in with the group's policy of concentrating on high technology products, for £1 million cash.

Plessey Sheet Metals, involved in sub-contracting work making vending machines and filling cabinets has been bought by WCB-Clares, which makes shelves, wire baskets and trolleys for supermarkets and is part of Guinness.

WCB-Clares supply Sainsbury, Tesco and Sainsbury and are already working at full capacity at their factories in Wells, Somerset, and Mountain Ash in South Wales. Mr Roy Griffiths, the chairman, said: "The sheet metal business will increase capacity by about 66 per cent."

It is understood that Plessey Sheet Metal could have been making a small loss.

This is the last of about nine companies which Plessey has sold during the last two years.

Short-term income bonds upset the LOA

By Sylvia Morris

Single premium bond sales rose by £91m to £630m last year, with 90 per cent of this rise going to short-term guaranteed income bonds. But despite this increase in business, the Life Offices Association wants to see these income bonds killed off.

L.O.A. chairman Mr Leonard Hall said yesterday that he was "not happy" about these bonds being sold by non-member offices and did not think that tax relief should be available to them.

Although sales of the bonds are small compared with total life assurance business, fears that they will mushroom are expected to bring inland Revenue action against them. The L.O.A. is concerned that any Revenue move will cause repercussions throughout the whole industry.

Short-term income bonds, which have a life of one or two years, offer attractive returns by taking advantage of tax relief on life assurance premiums primarily designed for longer term contracts of ten years or more.

One possible way to put an end to these bonds is to extend the clawback rule on tax relief to a period beyond the current four years. Alternatively legislation could be introduced making income bonds non-qualifying for tax relief purposes which would end longer-term guaranteed bonds.

Mr Hall was optimistic that there was no immediate danger of life assurance premium relief being withdrawn from general.

Stock markets

Shares smartly ahead as buyers come back

The Stock Market burst back into life again yesterday, following a quiet start, as institutional buyers stepped into the ring.

Trading had begun in sombre mood overshadowed by the uncertain situation in the steel dispute and by events overseas which sent equities and gilts lower.

Little activity there was continued to be centred on oil and also gold shares, following the rebound in the bullion price.

Oil shares continued to draw investment support following the recent spate of major oil companies reporting exceptional profits in the United States, which in turn has focused attention on their British rivals now felt to be undervalued.

Gold shares also saw support after the bullion price had held its own in the world market overnight. Further support also came with the announcement earlier in the week that Saudi Arabia had increased its price of oil to \$26 a barrel and planned further price rises in the near future.

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Interest was shown in the new tax stocks which showed improvements of £1 although elsewhere rises were mainly fixed at about £1 to £1. At the shorter end of the market falls of about £1 were reversed and net rises of about £1 to £1 were witnessed at the close.

Details of the placing being arranged by Charterhouse Japhet and Carr Sebag in Berkeley North Sea should be worth reading. Berkeley's interests are in or near block 16/26. Shareholders in parent company KCA International will have preference for the partly paid issue and the company itself will get several millions in cash. KCA are now 60p.

Equities remained firm after hours although some were just off their best. Nevertheless, the FT index managed to finish the day at its highest point 10.4 up at 464.0 after starting the day 1.6 down.

This proved to be the case in

leading industrials where ICI experienced some heavy demand mainly as a result of its oil interests rising 9p to 389p. Third-quarter figures from Reed International, above expectations, were well received and the shares rose 13p to 207p spilling over into Bewater which climbed 11p to 178p.

Elsewhere, Unilever climbed 8p to 470p, Glaxo 7p to 490p while rises of 5p were noted in Fisons at 292p and Bechem at 135p. BAT's was cautious ahead of today's figures firming 1p to 271p.

Gold shares made strong progress on the back of the rise in the bullion price with Anglo American Gold \$31 up at \$89. West Driffield \$2 better at \$313 and Vull Reef \$31 stronger at \$651. Among the cheaper priced shares St Helena rose \$2 to \$351, Venterspost \$11 to \$144 and F. S. Geduld \$33 to \$574.

London financials also saw further firming. Consolidated Gold Fields improved 15p to 463p, R.T.Z. 10p to 416p, Selection Trust 8p to 688p and De

Beers Dfd £3.16 to £101. In platinum Rustenburg rose 9p to 279p.

Oil shares showed further improvement throughout the list with interest from the United States providing a late fillip for the majors after hours. BP jumped 20p to 362p and the new 18p to 157p, 3p above the offer price with the remainder of the cash due next week.

Shell rose 15p to 386p and Ultramar advanced 4p to 432p as did Barmah at 194p. Lasso expanded 5p to 420p, among second liners, but profit taking clipped 8p from Siebens at 682p.

The interest in oil bubbled over into North Sea shares where Carless Capel was wanted 8p up at 86p as its North Sea interests were taken into account.

The threat of a renewed price war following Associated Dairies announcement on price cutting on Monday resulted in further falls. Associated Dairies, itself, tumbled 8p to 174p ahead of today's figures while other falls featured Tesco 3p to 651p.

Linford 8p to 157p and Kwik Save Discount 4p to 110p. J. Sainsbury managed to remain firm at 289p.

Hopes of an increase in the defence budget along the lines of President Carter's plans to spend £15,000m prompted rises among shares involved in defence. Plessey rose 5p to 132p, GEC 6p to 360p, Vickers 9p to 137p and Smiths Industries 3p to 222p. Racal also involved in defence and currently bidding for Deca improved 1p to 243p while Deca unaffected by the death of its chairman Sir Edward Lewis, advanced 20p to 395p in the ordinary and 17p to 352p in the "A".

Anthony Gibbs crept up 3p to 81p on Monday and stayed there yesterday. There is going to be no counter bidder to Hongkong & Shanghai which can afford to take its time negotiating bid terms for the Hongkong Bank has 40 per cent of the shares.

Shares of Louis C. Edwards returned from suspension 14p up at 52p as did stable share Morgan Edwards 33p up at 409p while merger talks with continue. At the same time shares of Manchester Utd FC, chaired by Mr Louis Edwards, and dear under rule 163(2), tumbled 20p to 150p after 125p.

Equity turnover on January 28, was £139,540m (15,660 bargains). Active stocks yesterday, according to the Financial Times, were 1,428. The London Stock Exchange Dairies, BP, BP New, Retail, Selection Trust, Carless Capel, Deca "A", Reed International and R.T.Z.

Latest results

Company	Sales	Profits	Earnings	Div	Pay	Year's
Int or Fin	£m	£m	per share	pence	dividend	total
Christie-Tyler (I)	34.9(29.7)	1.6(1.5)	8.0(7.5)	2.0(1.8)	6/4	—(6.5)
Five Oaks Invest (F)	0.48(0.72)	0.07(0.003)	—	NR(NM)	—	—
Glaxo (G)	30.4(24.7)	0.53(0.48)	4.38(3.8)	1.43	1/4	1.85(1.37)
Henderson-Kenton (I)	13.3(12.1)	0.43(0.50)	3.1(3.7)	1.25(1.0)	—	—
IOC Group (F)	44.4(35.4)	5.1(7.1)	150.4(25.4)	NR(NM)	—	—
Forvir (F)	6.29(4.75b)	0.18(0.46)	1.0(2.6)	NR(NM)	—	—
Prestige (F)	62.0(59.0)	5.8(6.8)	19.0(20.8)	4.75(5.7)	25/2	6.8(6.2)
Roskill (I)	15.3(12.3)	0.48(0.72)	1.5(1.8)	0.75(0.75)	26/3	5.5(4.8)
Thromorton Trust (F)	—	3.6(3.0)	—	3.3(2.8)	3/4	3.48(3.16)
Trident TV (F)	64.5(65.4)	7.5(9.0)	5.7(10.8)	2.38(2.23)	—	—
Worthington (I)	1.06(1.01)	1.26(1.15)	1.26(1.15)	1.26(1.15)	3/3	—

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pension per share. Elsewhere in Business News are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.428. Profits are shown pre-tax and earnings are net. a=13 months. b=10 months. c=loss.

Thromorton Trust's revenue up 19 pc

Pre-tax revenue of Thromorton Trust expanded by 19 per cent to a record £13.64m in the 12 months to November 30. The total gross dividend is being lifted from 7.27p to 7.92p. At the year-end, the net asset value of the ordinary shares had reached 107.2p, against 101.3p a year earlier.

FIVE OAKS INVESTMENTS
Turnover for 1979 dropped from £730,000 to £484,000. Pre-tax loss of £73,597, against profit of £35,000. No dividend (same).

GRINDLAYS BANK
Grindlays Bank announces that agreement has been reached for the sale of the share capital of its wholly owned subsidiary Cox and Kings (Holdings) Ltd. Messrs A. B. M. Good and J. N. R. Barber.

W. GOODKIND & SONS
Contracts exchanged for Goodkind to buy long leasehold interest in Denton Park Shopping Centre, Newcastle upon Tyne, from Denton Park NV, for £700,000 in cash and shares.

WATER OFFER
Rickmansworth and Uxbridge Valley Water intends to offer for sale by tender £3m, 9 per cent redeemable preference stock. £98. Minimum price of issue will be 198 per cent.

LAZARD CONFIRMING
Lazard Brothers & Co announce the formation of their new confirming house subsidiary company, Lazard Confirming. The directors are Mr J. Todd (chairman), Mr P. R. Godwin and Mr R. N. de G. Skipworth.

AUSTRIAN BANK
Zentralsparkasse and Kommerzbank, Austria's largest savings bank and the fourth biggest bank with assets of AS\$93m, has opened a London office to service growing international business and in particular its lending portfolio through Eurocurrency markets.

PORVAIR
Turnover for 13 months to November 30, £6.29m (£4.79m for 10 months). Net profit £180,000 (£465,000). EPS 1.0p (2.6p). No div (same).

A. J. WORTHINGTON
Turnover of A. J. Worthington (Holdings) for half-year to September 30 reached £1.06m (against £1.01m), but pre-tax profits fell from £136,600 to £72,200. Interim dividend, gross, lifted from 0.25p (adjusted) to 0.58p. Adverse conditions in home market have con-

tinued, with no sign yet of improvement.

DELTA METAL
Negotiations for purchase of Accurate Forging Corporation and New England Centrifugal Grinding, Inc. by Delta Metal, a subsidiary of Hartford, Connecticut, have now been satisfactorily completed for a purchase price of \$6m. Group will be able to expand its current sales into North American continent and should provide a longer-term platform for growth.

BROOKS TOOL
Directors are confident that the increases in output budgeted for subsidiary companies for the coming year can be achieved but they are in no position to make a forecast.

JERMYN INVESTMENT
Subsidiaries of Country and New Town Properties and British and Kings (Holdings) Ltd. have acquired a further 57,500 shares each in Jermy Investment, increasing their holdings to 40.6 per cent each.

Briefly

NEWMAN INDUSTRIES
Newman Industries' offshoot, Grindley of Stoke (Ceramics) Inc. has completed the take-over of Ceramix Group Inc from Maddock Ltd for £1.69m. At June 30 last, Ceramix's net tangible assets were \$553,79m (£1,66m). Ceramix makes vitrified earthenware for sale to hotels and restaurants in the United States and distributes tabletop merchandise.

UNITED TIN AREAS
Listing suspended at company's request pending clarification of company's position.

AVANA GROUP
Dr J. S. Randall has acquired a further 2,000 ordinary shares.

JANTAR
Following the sale of 45,000 shares, Electra Finance Co is interested in 130,000 ordinary shares (6.63 per cent). Electra is a subsidiary of Globe Investment Trust.

CARDIFF MALTING
Saxondent and associates have disposed of their holding of 37,500 shares (5.1 per cent) in Cardiff Malting.

HUNTLEIGH GROUP
Sir J. Hunt, chairman, and his wife have each disposed of 30,000 shares.

Christie-Tyler just 6pc ahead

By Rosemary Unsworth

The anticipated downturn in the furniture sector in 1980 is already showing through for Glamorgan-based furniture manufacturer, Christie-Tyler. Although turnover rose during the first half, profits showed reduced growth compared with

the same period of the previous year.

Pre-tax profits rose by 6 per cent to £1.6m and turnover increased by 17 per cent to £34.9m. However, the 6.1 per cent increase was passed on to customers.

Mr George Williams, chairman, said that the autumn, a normally buoyant period for the group, was also quieter than anticipated. This was due to the pre-VAT spending boom and reduced consumer expenditure. In addition, Christie believes that the current high interest rates have adversely affected sales.

The outlook for the second half is more gloomy although the group's performance in that period is usually better. Mr Williams forecasts that in the present economic circumstances the full-year results will be well below last year's £4.2m.

The interim dividend has been increased from 2.76p gross to 2.85p and Christie hopes to maintain the final of 6.7p gross.

Henderson-Kenton slips

A deliberate policy of allowing customers to pay for goods at pre-VAT increase prices hit Henderson-Kenton's margins at the halfway stage.

Pre-tax profits fell back by 28 per cent to £437,000 while turnover rose by only 9 per cent to £13.3m in the six months to September 30, 1979.

The furniture retailing group decided to allow their customers to pay for goods already ordered at the 8 per cent VAT rate for two weeks after the increase was implemented, which it said reduced margins but improved volume for a time.

Arco pushes income ahead by 45 pc

Atlantic Richfield of Los Angeles reported a net income of \$1.1bn or \$9.48 a share for 1979. This is a 45 per cent increase over the \$804m or \$6.60 dollars a share in 1978.

Mr Robert O. Anderson, chairman, says this high-level performance is the basic support to the company's previously announced commitment to a \$3bn record capital budget for 1980, compared with \$1.8bn last year. About 71 per cent of the total capital budget is allocated to the development and delivery of domestic energy resources.

Mr Anderson attributes the gain in 1979 primarily to higher crude oil prices, increased production from the north slope of Alaska and improved returns from sales of petroleum products.

Significant improvement in the prices of copper and other metals, along with a stronger market for chemicals, were other factors in the company's favourable performance for the

International

deficit of 28.6 billion lire in 1978, according to the chairman Signor Filiberto Pittini.

The net loss in 1979, however, was likely to rise from the previous year. That is because Pittini offset almost all of the 1978 operating deficit with a capital gain of 26.5 billion lire from the sale of its skyscraper

Venezuelan Eurocredit

The Venezuelan power company, Elctricidad de Caracas, has mandated Morgan Guaranty Trust Co to raise a two-tranche \$50m Eurocredit.

The first tranche of \$25m carries a ten-year maturity and a spread of 3 per cent over United States prime rate, while the second tranche of \$25m, also over ten years, carries a spread of 3 per cent over London Interbank Offered Rates.

Greenall Whitley cuts borrowings

Brewers Greenall Whitley reduced borrowings by £6.3m in the year to September, 1979, reports chairman, Mr Christopher Hatton in his annual report. Since the balance sheet date, a £5m loan facility has

Interim progress at Grimshaw Hlids

A 13.6 per cent rise in first-half profits to £119,000 was reported yesterday by Grimshaw Holdings, the industrial group with interests in the D.I.Y. market and protective surface coatings.

Turnover, for the six months to October 31, climbed by 49 per cent to £23.93m. The chairman, Mr Thomas Kenny, reports that the group continues to progress; the latest figures are not strictly comparable with 1978.

Record Ridgway's warnings

For the Record Ridgway group's United Kingdom companies, the current year is again likely to be difficult because of the high cost of money, the rate of inflation and the strength of sterling.

This warning comes from Mr Antony B. Hampton, the chairman, in his annual statement. The increasing advantages of cost-reduction and the capital investment programme will strengthen the company's ability to meet the adverse conditions. But the start-up costs of the foundry and redundancy payments will offset these benefits in the first half of the year. Record makers' hand tools and forgings.

Occidental Chemical chooses new chairman

Mr Charles M. Duescher is to become chairman of Occidental Chemical Europe, on February 1.

Mr G. J. Waters has joined the board of Spemby as director, technical services division. Mr B. J. Bowles is now director/manager of Grafton Optical. Both companies are members of the Leadhall Sterling group.

Mr I. D. Glen has been appointed to the board of Rubbs & Allied Products.

Mr Ian Hawkins is the new managing director of Clifford Partridge Company.

Mr Erik I. Skog and Mr Robert F. Carroll have been named as financial directors by Harlands of Hull. Mr J. B. Davies has been appointed export sales director of Harland Machine Systems.

Mr C. Bates and Mr S. Muller become directors of M. W. Marshall & Co with effect from February 1, 1980. Mr C. J. Kelson, Mr M. Pearce and Mr R. H. Smith become assistant directors. Mr F. J. Haughton is to be a director of Marshalls (Ireland).

Four new directors have been appointed by UKF Fertilisers are Mr Hugh le Bouillier, personnel director; Mr John Coleman, finance director; Mr James Cooper, marketing director, and Mr Richard Rabor, sales director. Mr Cooper has also been named an executive director of UKF Fertilisers.

Mr I. S. Richards has been named a director of A.R.E. Chambers Underwriting Agency.

Mr Daniel Cohen has become financial director and controller of Saxonian.

Mr Peter J. Duff has joined the board of Caravans International as a non-executive director.

Mr Keith Potts has become financial director of Ofcom. Mr G. W. Macdonald-Hughes has been appointed to Lloyds Bank and Lloyds Bank UK Management with effect from April 1, 1980.

Mr P. B. L. Clark is the new general manager of the overseas division of Lloyds Bank. He succeeds Mr D. W. Kendrick who retires at the end of April. The new assistant general manager of the division is Mr P. B. Emmerson.

Mr Frank Walker is now a director of Willis, Faber & Dumas.

Mr A. J. West is now managing director of Baco Contracts. Other directors are: Mr D. H. Rose, sales and marketing; Mr R. H. J. FitzHerbert, contracts.

Mr Warren Bradley has been appointed personnel director of T. Tower Housewares.

Mr John Barber has been appointed a non-executive director of Good Relations Holdings and the Good Relations Group.

Mr Geoffrey Sutcliffe has been appointed senior international executive for the Africa and Middle East region of Nations Westminster Bank's international banking division, based in the City. He succeeds Mr E. F. Nightingale who is retiring.

Mr G. W. Macdonald-Hughes has been appointed managing director and chief executive of London & Scottish Marine Oil Company. Mr R. S. Fox becomes managing director, exploration and production.

Mr E. G. Barnard becomes executive director, and Mr D. A. Ferguson becomes a director.

Mr Christopher Foy has joined the board of Van den Berghs & Jurgens as personnel director. He succeeds Mr Clive Welland who has been appointed to the personnel division of Unilever NV in Rotterdam.

Mr Ian A. N. Irvine has been appointed to the Industrial Development Advisory Board.

Mr Colin E. Poynter has been appointed a non-executive director of John Mowlem and Company. Mr Edward F. Maynard has joined the Manson Byng Group as a director.

McCORQUODALE

Specialist international printers

Results for the year to 30 September 1979:—

	1979	1978	Increase
Turnover (£'000)	67,188	57,440	+17%
Consolidated Group			
Profits before tax (£'000)	4,634	4,123	+12%
Earnings per ordinary share (p)	24.58	19.78	+24%
Dividends per ordinary share (p)	7.50	6.32	+19%

"We enter the new year with confidence. Barring totally unforeseen circumstances beyond our control and major national industrial disruption, we expect to report next year another increase in profits and earnings"

Alastair McCorquodale, Chairman

McCORQUODALE AND CO. LTD.,
McCORQUODALE HOUSE,
15 CAVENDISH SQUARE,
LONDON W1M 0HT.

British Anzani

British Anzani, the Kent-based group whose shares were suspended more than two years ago as it struggled to free itself from the effects of the 1974-75 property crash, is to attempt to have its shares re-quoted.

The one-time outdoor motor group, now headed by solicitor Mr Peter Stiles, expects to make an announcement in the next few weeks. At the moment, he is still conducting delicate negotiations over some remaining property and land and the company stresses that any progress for Anzani hinges on their success.

The caution is well justified. Last autumn British Anzani were promising a statement "within a few days", which failed to materialize.

Company secretary Mr Frank Hornett said: "If talks are successful and I stress these are at a very delicate stage, we should be making a statement in a couple of weeks which will outline the new structure and our progress."

The group then expects to log two years of annual returns with the Stock Exchange, which I understand, the Exchange is anxious for them to complete. No figures have been reported since 1977.

The news, when it comes, will be welcomed by Anzani's 5,000 shareholders whose combined 26 million shares have been worth little more than 16p, the price at suspension in November 1977.

Secretarial and Non-Secretarial Appointments also on page 8

NON-SECRETARIAL

PA/ACCOUNTS

£4,800 pa

Responsible person wanted for new Division of National Commission. Duties would involve establishing customer accounts, and other secretarial responsibilities. This is an opportunity for a person wanting to be really involved in a fast growing exciting business.

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